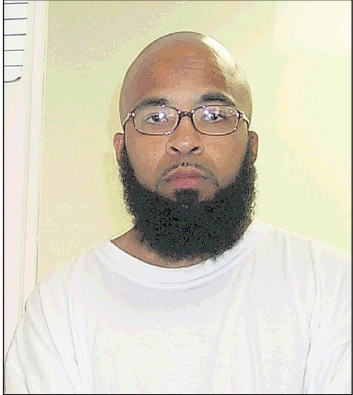


Home Grown



This is a 2004 photo provided by the Washington State Department of Corrections showing Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif, also known as Joseph Anthony Davis, of Seattle. Davis, and Walli Mujahidh, also known as Frederick Domingue Jr., of Los Angeles, were arrested Wednesday night, June 22, 2011. The men were arrested at a warehouse garage when they arrived to pick up machine guns to use in an alleged terror plot.

(AP Photo/Department of Corrections)

WILLIAM YARDLEY

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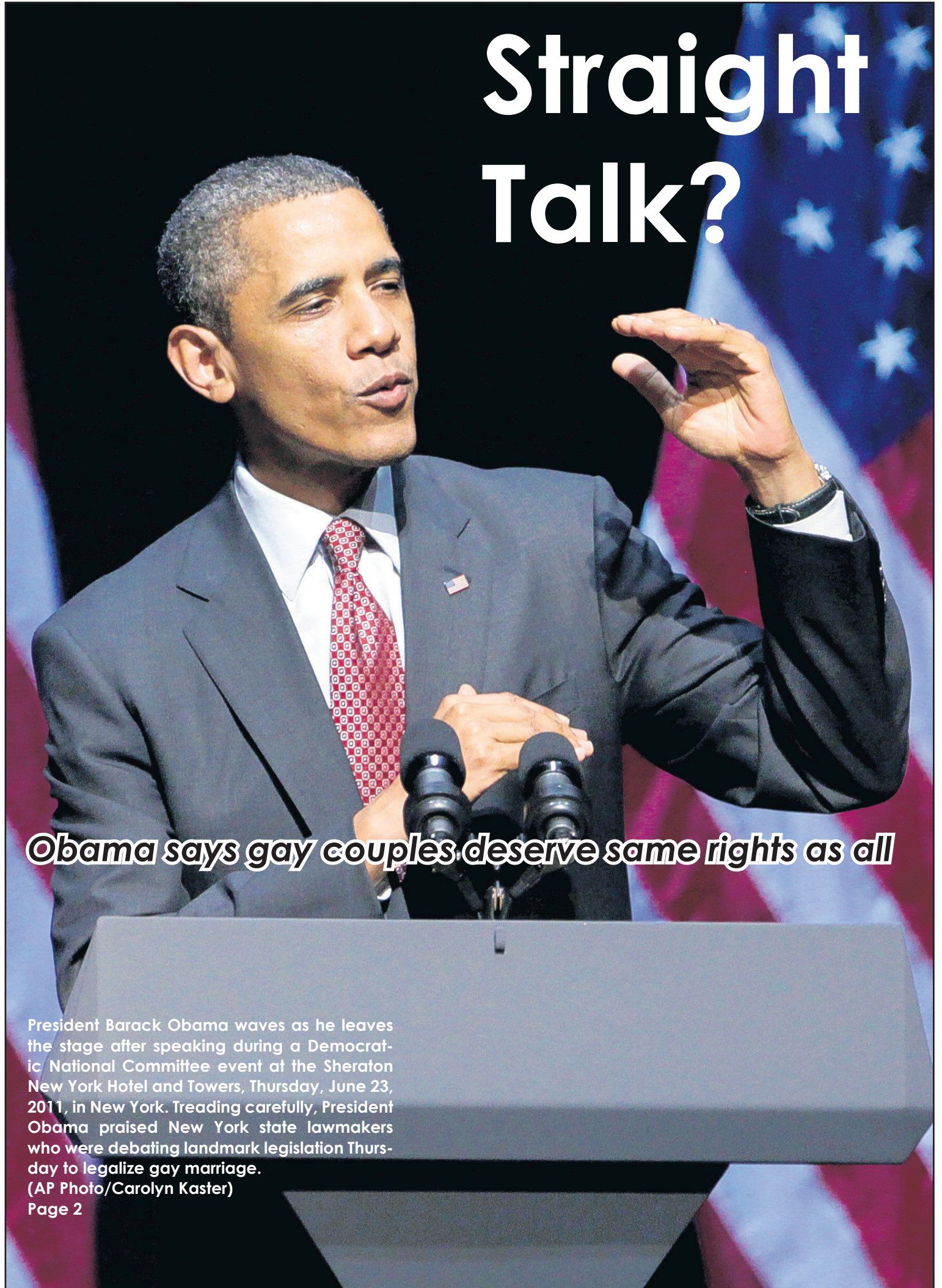
SEATTLE – Federal law enforcement officials have arrested two men who they say planned to attack a military processing center here using machine guns and grenades.

The men – Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif, also known as Joseph A. Davis, 33, of Seattle, and Walli Mujahidh, also known as Frederick Domingue Jr., 32, of Los Angeles – were arrested late Wednesday and charged with conspiracy to murder federal officers and employees, conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and several firearms-related charges.

The processing center, called the Military Entrance Processing Station, is used to help process new enlistees. The building is in an industrial area south of downtown. The government said it also houses a federally run day-care center.

Continued on Next Page

Straight Talk?



Obama says gay couples deserve same rights as all

President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the stage after speaking during a Democratic National Committee event at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, Thursday, June 23, 2011, in New York. Treading carefully, President Obama praised New York state lawmakers who were debating landmark legislation Thursday to legalize gay marriage.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Page 2

FBI manhunt for mob legend James "Whitey" Bulger ends

ADAM NAGOURNEY
ABBY GOODNOUGH
© 2011 New York Times

LOS ANGELES – Charlie and Carol Gasko seemed to be just another fading, elderly couple enjoying retirement in a modest apartment building a few blocks from the Pacific in Santa Monica. He told a neighbor he had emphysema and spent his days lying on the couch watching television. Carol would venture out for occasional strolls on the nearby Third Street Promenade, stopping by the Saturday Farmers' Market or feeding a neighborhood stray cat. Often, he tagged along. But they were always reclusive and a little odd, neighbors said.

Charlie would often wear a baseball cap or fedora that shadowed his face. He would bark at neighbors when Carol lingered too long to speak to them, said one such neighbor, who described him as "a rageaholic"; Carol explained that he was suffering from dementia. In recent months, another neighbor said, a note was taped to their apartment door reading, "Please do not Knock at Any Time." But the couple who led this

quiet life in the 1,100-square foot, two-bedroom apartment on the third floor of a drab apartment building for more than a decade

ton's most fearsome crime boss, a fixture on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list – and she was his girlfriend, Catherine Greig, 60, a former dental

rested.

The manhunt – which had produced Elvis-like Bulger sightings, rumors of his death and considerable



FBI Special Agent Mary Prang sets up a 'wanted' poster overstamped 'captured' for James 'Whitey' Bulger, before a news conference at FBI headquarters in Los Angeles Thursday, June 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

were not who they said they were. Charlie Gasko was one of the most notorious gangsters in America – James "Whitey" Bulger, once Bos-

hygienist. They fled Boston more than 16 years ago after Bulger, a sometime bureau informer, learned from an FBI agent that he was about to be ar-

embarrassment for the FBI – ended shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday when agents lured them out of their apartment and put them under arrest. □

Home grown terrorists plotted Seattle attack



Col. Anthony Wright speaks with media members outside a federal building that houses the Seattle Military Processing Center Thursday, June 23, 2011, in Seattle. Two men have been arrested in a plot to use machine guns and grenades in an attack on the military recruiting station there that also houses a daycare, the U.S. Justice Department said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Continued from Front Page

Both men appeared in court here in a brief initial hearing on Thursday. Neither spoke beyond saying "yes" when asked to confirm that they lacked money to hire a lawyer. The magistrate judge presiding over the hearing appointed public defenders to represent them.

The 38-page criminal complaint filed against the two suggested that they had not made final plans to carry out the alleged plot. They were frustrated, it said, by American war policies and discussed how to make an attack last as long as possible in order to get the most media attention for their actions.

The complaint says federal authorities were informed of the plan in early June by the Seattle police, who had been approached by someone who was involved in initial discussions about the attack with Abdul-Latif.

The source, described in the complaint as having an "extremely serious" felony record, soon became a paid informant, helping agents make audio and video recordings of conversations the source had with the two defendants. At one point, Abdul-Latif said, according to a government transcription of a recorded conversation: "We're not only trying to kill people, we're trying to send a message. □

Obama: gay couples deserve same rights as all

ERICA WERNER
JULIE PACE
Associated Press

NEW YORK – Treading carefully, President Barack Obama praised New York state lawmakers who were debating landmark legislation Thursday to legalize gay marriage, saying that's what democracy's all about. But as expected, the president stopped short of embracing same-sex marriage himself, instead asking gay and lesbian donors for patience.

"I believe that gay couples deserve the same legal rights as every other couple in this country," the president said at a Manhattan fundraiser, his first geared specifically to the gay community. Coincidentally, the long-planned event occurred just as lawmakers in Albany were debating legislation that would make New York the sixth and by

far the largest state to legalize gay marriage.

warmed to Obama. The president has said his views

ple want, but he added that he was confident that there will be a day "when every single American, gay or straight or lesbian or bisexual or transgender, is free to live and love as they see fit.



Gay rights advocates Sergio Llanos, left, of Queens, and Vito Hernovich, second from left, of Manhattan, Christin Meador, center, of Manhattan, Malak Behrouznamei, second from right, of Brooklyn, and Melanie Butler, of Brooklyn chant slogans during a rally for same sex marriage outside the President Barack Obama LGBT gala fundraiser, Thursday, June 23, 2011 in New York.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

That served to spotlight the president's own views on same-sex marriage, a sore point with gay supporters who've otherwise

are "evolving," but for now he supports civil unions, not same-sex marriage. Obama said progress will be slower than some peo-

"Traditionally marriage has been decided by the states and right now I understand there's a little debate going on here in New York," he said to laughter. New York's lawmakers, he said, are "doing exactly what democracies are supposed to do."

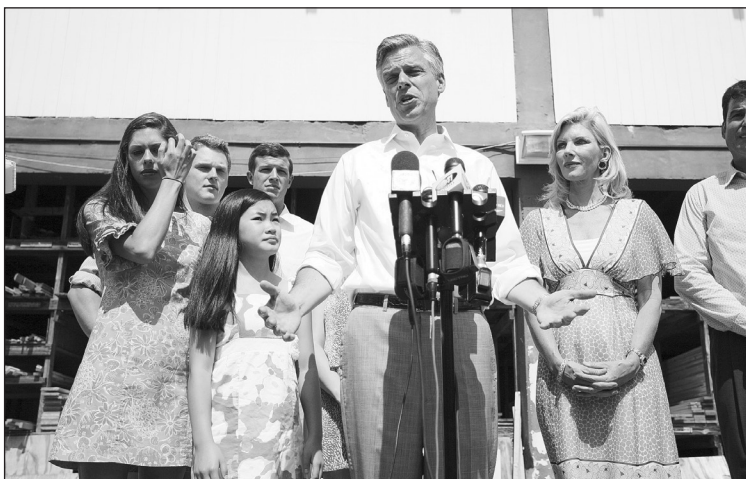
Debate on the measure continued into the night at the statehouse, and the outcome was uncertain. As Obama spoke a handful of people shouted out "marriage!" And Obama said, "I heard you guys." He never directly mentioned gay marriage. □

Romney, Huntsman compete in Mormon primary

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The first presidential nomination race pitting two Mormons against each other is setting off a competition for their coreligionist's support, which can result in sizeable campaign contributions despite their small bloc of votes.

Both Mitt Romney and Jon Huntsman are planning trips to the predominantly Mormon state of Utah to pitch their White House bids and try to raise funds.

The two candidates are distant cousins and have much in common. Both are former Republican governors and sons of industrial giants. Both have matinee idol good looks and business-heavy resumes. Both have big families. Both are running for the White House with positions that fall outside the Republican orthodoxy. But there are big differences in their candidacies. Romney is seen as the front-runner in the wide-open race for the Republican nomination to run against President Barack Obama. Huntsman, who served as Obama's



Republican presidential candidate, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, accompanied by his family, talks to the media during a campaign stop at Everglades Lumber Yard in Miami, Thursday, June 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

ambassador to China, is not well-known nationally. As Romney and Huntsman jostle for support, Mormons are watching two of their own compete in what could become a nasty, intra-faith contest between two scions of Mormon royalty. "It's not automatic that this Mormon is going to support a Mormon," said Gary Lawrence, a political pollster in Southern California who shares the two candidates' faith.

He pointed to Romney's 2008 campaign that included a speech on his faith that helped assuage some of the public's concerns over Mormons. "I would say Mormonism will be a factor in the candidacy of these two men," he said, "but not as big of one as it was the last time." Gallup poll found 22 percent of Americans wouldn't support a Mormon for president — a consistent number since the polling

firm started asking about Mormons in the White House in 1967 when then-Michigan Gov. George Romney sought the office. "I think (Mormonism) is still something of a barrier, but not insurmountable," said Lavar Webb, a Mormon and a Republican strategist. "I think anyone will have a difficult fight against Obama, but I think if he lost, it wouldn't be his Mormon religion that did it." Both men say they're not personally close; neither is rushing to help the other despite a tangled political and personal family tree.

In 2008, Huntsman backed Sen. John McCain's presidential bid and was often at his side, watching

the person-to-person campaign master at work. His father, industrial magnate Jon Huntsman Sr., was a national finance chairman for Romney, turning to his vast network to open deep pockets that helped Romney wage a professional — although unsuccessful — presidential bid. Now, the elder Huntsman is working for his son's bid. The personal ties are even deeper. Huntsman's uncle Bruce once dated Romney's sister Lynn. Huntsman's maternal grandfather was best friends with Romney's father, George Huntsman's mother lived for two years with Romney's sister Jane while they were at the University of Utah. □

Republicans bail on budget talks, blame the Democrats

DAVID ESPO, AP Special Correspondent WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans pulled out of debt-reduction talks led by Vice President Joe Biden with a flourish Thursday, blaming Democrats for demanding tax increases as part of a deal rather than accepting more than \$1 trillion in cuts to medical care for the elderly and other government programs.

"Let me be clear: Tax hikes are off the table," said House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican. Boehner spoke shortly after the House Republican second-in-command, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, announced he would not attend a planned negotiating session and said it is "time for President Obama to speak clearly



House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia returns to his office in the Capitol following a series of votes on the House floor, Thursday, June 23, 2011, in Washington. Cantor, who has been participating in bipartisan budget talks headed by Vice President Joe Biden, pulled out citing an impasse over taxes that he says requires intervention by President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

and resolve the tax issue." White House spokesman Jay Carney quickly obliged, while announcing that the

talks were "in abeyance." He said Obama supports a "balanced approach" to debt reduction. □

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O.P.I

Senators demand congressional probe on nuke safety

JEFF DONN

AP National Writer

Three U.S. senators, alarmed by findings of an Associated Press investigation about aging problems at the nation's nuclear power plants, asked Thursday for a congressional investigation of safety standards and federal oversight at the facilities. The request by Democrats Barbara Boxer of California and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and independent Bernard Sanders of Vermont builds on increased public concern about nuclear safety in recent months — an outcry unlike anything since the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986. Public interest first spiked after the March accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Japan. Concern has been heightened this week as the AP began releasing the results of a yearlong investigation into aging related safety problems at the 104 reactors operating in the United States. That's led activists, politicians, critics and safety watchdogs to say they hope to turn the pub-



This photo shows steam rising from cooling towers at Exelon Corp.'s nuclear plant in Byron, Ill. Illinois has six nuclear plants, with a total of 11 reactors, more than any other state in the U.S. in 2010. Exelon, which has acknowledged violating Illinois state groundwater standards, agreed to pay \$1.2 million to settle state and county complaints over the tritium leaks in Illinois' Braidwood, Dresden and Byron sites. The NRC also sanctioned Exelon.

lic focus more sharply onto the industry in America and broader regulatory problems at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. One after another, they said they hope the result will be tougher relicensing and

(AP Photo/Robert Ray)

safety standards, safer storage of spent fuel and better disaster planning.

Janet Tauro, of Brick, New Jersey, co-founder of Grandmothers, Mothers, and More for Energy Safety who lives near the Oyster Creek nuclear plant, said the latest developments have led her to conclude "the light is really starting to shine on a very closed regulatory agency." Senators Boxer, Whitehouse and Sanders asked for the oversight investigation by the Government Accountability Office. Boxer chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. New Jersey's two Democratic senators, Frank R. Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, made a similar request of the GAO earlier this week. In recent months, public anxiety over nuclear power has "peaked incredibly," said engineer Paul Blanch, an industry whistleblower who later returned to work on improving safety. He is now fighting relicensing applications at four sites. "I was fighting the world, and now I'm only fighting half the world," Blanch said. □

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Suspect in Long Island drugstore killings denied bail

AL BAKER
J. GOLDSTEIN
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The first one to die was the pharmacist.

There had been some conversation first, Suffolk County prosecutors said, apparently the only words that the suspect, David Laffer, uttered inside Haven Drugs on Sunday.

Then, without warning, Laffer pulled out a handgun and shot the pharmacist, Raymond Ferguson, the prosecutor said. It was unclear if Ferguson had recognized Laffer, who had been a customer before. But even if he had known him, Laffer was wearing a disguise: sunglasses, a cap and a fake beard.

Laffer then turned his gun on Jennifer Mejia, 17, a high school student who worked at the drugstore in Medford, on Long Island, the prosecutor, John Collins, said at Laffer's arraignment, in Central Islip.

After killing the two employees, Laffer walked through the store, before returning to where Ferguson lay, and shooting him twice more.

When two customers – Jaime Taccetta, 33, and Bry-

on Sheffield, 71 – entered the store, Laffer ambushed them, "shooting them in the back of the head," Collins said.

Law enforcement officials on Thursday offered the first public accounts of the quadruple homicide, using terms like cold-blooded and execution-style. Laffer, 33, was charged with first-degree murder and resisting arrest; his wife, Melinda Brady, 29, was charged with third-degree robbery and obstructing governmental administration.

Officials said Brady had driven Laffer to the pharmacy on Sunday; she was also to be arraigned Thursday, but was taken to an area hospital for unspecified reasons.

Brady was cooperating with detectives, officials said. As

she was led away from police headquarters, she said of her husband, "He did it, he did all of this."

At a news conference at Suffolk police headquarters, officials struggled to explain why Laffer, a former soldier, would resort to such violence.

They said he had no criminal background.

"Laffer shot two employees, point blank," said Richard Dormer, the Suffolk County police commissioner, "and two customers, executing the two of them as they walked into the store; shot them in cold blood."

"There was no conversation with this subject," he added, "and it was sudden and quick and unexpected and they probably didn't even know what happened to them." □



David Laffer, is escorted out of a police station in Patchogue, N.Y., Thursday, June 23, 2011. Laffer and his wife, Melinda Brady, were arrested Wednesday in connection with the Father's Day massacre of four people at the Haven Drugs in Medford, NY. Laffer faces charges of first-degree murder. Brady was charged with robbery and obstructing governmental administration. They were scheduled to be arraigned later Thursday.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

US mom arraigned in microwave death of baby

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — A woman accused of killing her baby in a microwave oven was arraigned Thursday on murder charges that could lead to the death penalty if she is convicted.

Prosecutors charged Ka Yang, 29, with one count of murder with the special circumstance that the killing was intentional and involved torture, which would make her eligible for the death penalty or life in prison without parole, the Sacramento Bee newspaper reported.

Authorities found Yang's 6-week-old daughter, Mirabelle Thao-Lo, dead in the family home in Sacramento on March 17.

Officials say the child suf-



Ka Yang, right is seen with her court appointed attorney, Linda Parisi during her arraignment for the alleged murder of her 7-week old daughter, in Sacramento County Superior Court Sacramento, Calif., Thursday, June 23, 2011. Yang did not enter a plea on the charges that she allegedly microwaved her baby to death three months ago.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

fered "extensive thermal injuries." The girl was burned from head-to-toe, but authorities could not find an obvious source for the

burns when they arrived at the home, according to the affidavit written by Sacramento Police Detective Thomas Shrum. □



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AP Poll: Bachmann, Pawlenty make gains

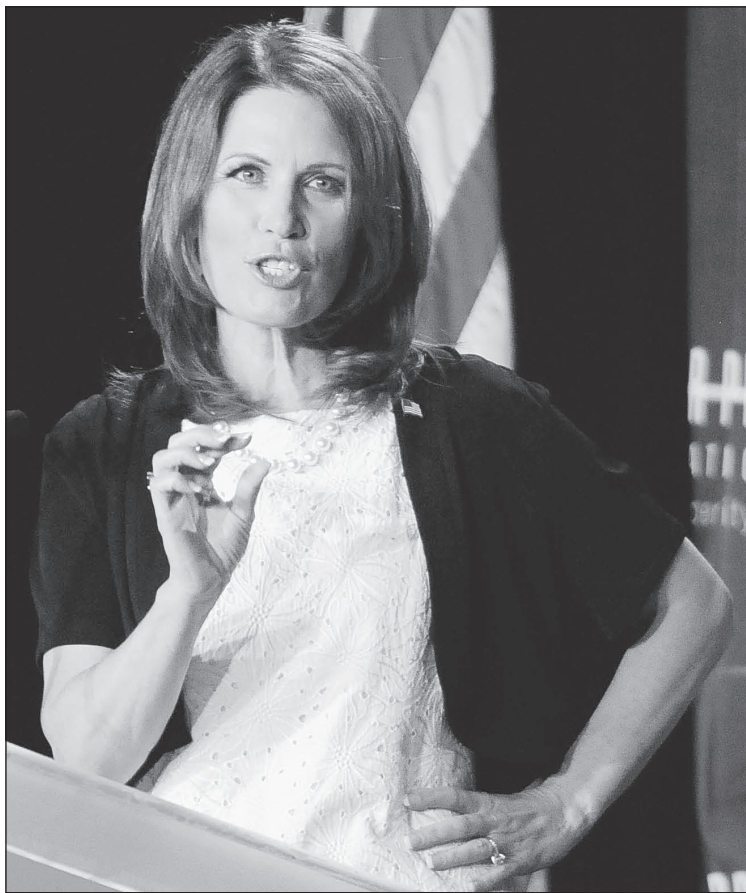
WASHINGTON (AP) — Two lesser-known Republican candidates are rising in popularity as voters start paying more attention to candidates who hope to take on President Barack Obama next year, a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows.

The poll shows two-time candidate Mitt Romney still holding steady as the party's front-runner, but Minnesota Rep. Michelle Bachmann and former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty have seen their favorability rise significantly among Republican voters.

The Republican race is very much in flux as candidates vie for the party's nomination to run against Obama. Generally a strong candidate, Obama could be vulnerable if job hiring remains stagnant, gas prices don't fall and financial turmoil abroad continues.

Obama's approval rating fell to 52 percent in the new poll, in line with his ratings before the daring raid in Pakistan by U.S. commandos last month that killed bin Laden.

Overall, the poll shows Re-



In this photo, Republican presidential hopeful, Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., speaks in St. Paul, Minn. Republicans are starting to pay more attention to the GOP candidates who hope to take on President Barack Obama next year, and so far that's been a good thing for Bachmann and Tim Pawlenty. For Newt Gingrich, not so much.

(AP Photo/Hannah Foslien)

publican voters giving the field of challengers an average assessment as interest in the race increases.

"There's no dynamite person," said 66-year-old Rich McGough, of Pennsylvania.

McGough said, however, that Bachmann has spirit and that Romney and Texas Gov. Rick Perry — who is considering joining the race — also would be solid choices.

Bachmann, a three-term congresswoman with heavy support from the small-government, anti-tax tea party caucus, enjoyed a big boost in her favorability after turning in a smooth debate performance this month and officially joining the race.

Bachmann's favorability rating jumped from 41 percent to 54 percent among Republicans.

A third still have no opinion about her, however, and it's too soon to tell if her boost will endure or was merely a June phenomenon.

Pawlenty, a two-term governor who has built a campaign operation staffed with presidential campaign veterans, has also made progress with Republicans, particularly among tea party supporters. □

U.S. Briefs

New prosecutor for Gitmo tribunals

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. Defense Department has announced a new chief prosecutor for the military tribunal trials at Guantanamo Bay. Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins will be in charge of prosecuting Guantanamo detainees charged with war crimes and other crimes. He succeeds Navy Capt. John Murphy, who has served as chief prosecutor since May 2009. Martins is currently working in Afghanistan and will take over the position in October. A Defense Department statement Thursday says Martins will return to civilian life as an assistant U.S. attorney in Louisiana. □

Divers find antique ring off Florida Keys

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — Treasure divers searching for a 17th-century sunken Spanish galleon off the Florida Keys say they have found an antique emerald ring worth an estimated \$500,000.

The gold ring has a rectangular cut estimated at 10 karats. It's believed to be from the Nuestra Señora de Atocha that sank off the Florida Keys during a 1622 hurricane. Divers from Mel Fisher's Treasures found the ring Thursday about 35 miles from Key West. A spokesperson said the ring's estimated value is based on the stone's 2.7-by 2.5-centimeter size and the value of other emeralds from Atocha. Also found were two silver spoons and other artifacts. A 40-inch gold rosary was found in March and a gold bar in April. □



In this photo, an ancient gold ring with a rectangular cut emerald, believed to be from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de Atocha that sank off the Florida Keys.

(AP Photo/ Sharon Wiley)

Prosecutors urge producer's extradition

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal prosecutors are asking a judge to ignore efforts by a reality television producer charged in his wife's death in Mexico to present evidence and testimony from his daughter to fight extradition. A prosecution brief filed Thursday calls Bruce Beresford-Redman's efforts to call his daughter as a witness during an upcoming extradition hearing a distraction. The brief calls it an effort to divert the attention of the court from overwhelming evidence that he killed his wife. Lawyers for the ex-"Survivor" producer have introduced statements from the couple's 6-year-old daughter into their opposition paperwork, and said at a news conference they hope to call her as a witness. □

Pastor suspended for marrying lesbians

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Methodist pastor was suspended Thursday for 20 days for officiating at a lesbian wedding, a modest victory for traditionalists in a growing rift over the role of gay and lesbian partnerships in the church. The Rev. Amy DeLong of Osceola never denied marrying the couple, an act that prompted a church trial this week in Kaukauna. A jury of clergy convicted her Wednesday by a 13-0 vote. That same jury could have chosen to defrock DeLong, but limited the penalty to suspension.

It also demanded, however, that DeLong draft and present a document outlining issues that harm the United Methodist Church's clergy covenant, and said if she does not she will be suspended for a year, according to the Rev. Scott Carlson, a DeLong supporter who was in the courtroom for the final phase.

DeLong and the Rev. Tom Lambrecht, the Greenville pastor who represented the church against her, did not immediately respond to telephone messages. □



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Aruba's music school celebrates a cultural evening

Rufo Wever's bust is unveiled at music-filled ceremony

The Aruba Music School, better known as Scol to Musica Rufo Wever, held a ceremony to unveil the bust of its mentor/composer in the school offices. The bust was designed and made by well-known local sculptor Maritza Erasmus, who has designed the busts of 2 other Aruban composers, all 3 of which will soon be displayed at Cas di Cultura now that the 3rd one of Rufo has been completed. In addition to the bust being presented to the faculty and students, 2 music books were presented to several in attendance, the printing of which was made possible because of a generous donation by Caribbean Mercantile Bank. Local musician and former student at the school, Armin Solognier, Marketing manager of the bank, accepted these books on behalf of the bank. One of the music books is the first ever printed music book with the compositions of Juan Chabaya Lampe (Padu), who co-wrote with Rufo the national anthem, "Aruba Dushi Terra". The other is the second music book with compositions of Rufo himself. These books were also presented to Padu and others. The music of Padu had never been in print, and local musician Johnny Croes spent years writing the music so that future generations of musicians, including the school's students, will be able to play it. Singer Catherine Provence was on hand to play for one of the young student singers, who sang one of Rufo's songs. Also 2 student piano players played Rufo's compositions for the audience. The Wever family was on hand for the celebration.



Rufo Wever was the first known musician to compose contemporary classical Aruban music. His first composition was the waltz "Arubanita", written in 1935 while Wever was only 18. The composition is of historic importance because it opened the modern era of Aruban compositions. The quality of all Rufo's compositions, most of them instrumental, are of a high level and his music is quite complicated. He wrote waltzes, mazurkas, tumbas, danzas, polkas, mambos, calypsos and boleros, totaling 450 in all, of which about 150 are complete. He also composed for orchestra, piano, guitar and saxophone. Very gifted as a musician, he played the saxophone, accordion, piano, guitar, cuarta (small guitar) and clarinet. He was also the very first musician to produce and place compositions on the Caha di Orgel (music organ), a hand wound instrument that plays music that is already programmed by punching holes in a revolving paper. Nobody else for a very long time was able to program

these instruments, so important in Aruba's folk history, and organs were even shipped over from the neighboring island of Curacao to be programmed by him. He did this for 33 years also writing compositions for the instrument, under the name A.N. Tillano. Besides documenting his own work, Rufo Wever documented 50 compositions which were not written down until that time. This included typical folkloric music from Aruba of which the authors were unknown. He has also documented the compositions of known Aruban composers. This includes the waltz Dahlia (unknown composer) and Dande music, especially popular around New Year's. He also documented the compositions of existing composers such as Padu, Dr. Chan, Titichi Zeppenfeldt, and Bertie Henriquez. Rufo Wever was born to business owners on Wilhelminastraat in 1917. His grandfather owned the first and only hardware store of that time. His great-uncle owned merchant ships

used in trading between Aruba, Curacao and Venezuela. Other relatives started Aruba's first Chamber of Commerce. His father was a building contractor and cabinetmaker as well as shipbuilder. He had a technical mind but also loved music, and played clarinet and cuarta.

Before Rufo was 6 he already was given his first harmonica, and surprised his parents by flawlessly playing a song which was in fashion at the time. Pleasantly surprised and impressed, his father purchased a second hand piano for Rufo, and contracted the music teacher Mrs. Shishi Rodriguez Timmer. When Rufo was 10 years old, tragedy struck and his father died suddenly of a serious illness leaving his mother, a strong-willed woman, the job of raising Rufo and her 3 other children. They were assisted financially by their grandfather and great-uncle. By the time Rufo was 12 years old, he could play the piano very well, and also started to learn to play other musical instruments

including rhythmic instruments. With his friends, he started the "Melody Band" when he was 15, which was later joined by his second cousin, Padu himself. In 1935, inspired by the famous Argentine composer and singer, Carlos Gardel, who visited the island of Aruba that year, Rufo Wever had the opportunity to accompany Gardel's band onstage, and then formed a tango group, "Los Trovadores Tropicales", with all musicians on guitar and one singer. They became the first musical group to perform on radio, radio Curom, on Curacao, making the year an important one for Rufo, because he wrote Arubanita, the first waltz from the Dutch Caribbean to be danced to by a member of the Dutch Royal family, Queen Juliana, on the occasion of her visit. In 1941, tragedy struck again, during the mandatory blackouts during World War II, when he lost an arm in a traffic accident. He was devastated, and almost a year in recovery he realized that he would no longer be able to play his instruments, so designed and ordered an artificial arm from Germany, to use to start playing piano again.

He also devised a way to make the piano sound the same with most of the notes being played with one hand! Unexpectedly, at the end of 1977, Rufo died suddenly of pneumonia at the age of 60. Aruba and the Antilles lost one of their greatest musicians, the pioneer of the modern era in Aruban music and culture. Aruba's School of Music has been dedicated to his musical legacy and bears his name. □

Aura Casino Poker Room 'All In'



PALM BEACH - It's been an action-packed week at Aura Casino, where its brand new poker room kicked off last Monday,

June 20. The room features three tables of Texas Hold'em poker including a Progressive Bad Beat Jackpot, large screen

TVs for viewing sports and Pay-Per-View events as well as full food and beverage service.

The new poker room is part of a \$6M casino renovation project undertaken this year. The new fully renovated 10,000 square foot casino opened in May featuring a lounge including live entertainment, all your favorites table games and over a hundred new slot machines.

The Poker Room will be open seven days a week.



Hours, games and tournament information are available at the casino Players Club or at 586-0705.

In case you missed the games and the gossip, here's a quick roundup of

what happened and what to expect.

Texas Hold'em tournament:
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2nd. Place: Mr. Fred A
3rd. Place: Paul B





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Amaretto Disaronno hosts the Links Ladies at Divi Links



DIVI LINKS – The Link Ladies were offered a most-enjoyable afternoon by Amaretto Disaronno, including a Ladies' Golf Tournament mixed with delicious cocktails and topped by prizes. The 2-person scramble format took off at 3pm on Saturday. † the start the ladies were offered a refreshing Disaronno Orange which provided them with the energy and the drive to get

day, Disaronno Cranberry, which was later voted their favorite cocktail of the day. After playing the Divine Nine, the Divi Links Golf Ladies retreated to Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant and butler-passed hors d'oeuvres. The were also served their third cocktail selection, Disaronno Sour which true to Disaronno's tagline



out on the golf course and play their best rounds, ever. Mid-course, on hole #6, the team of the Aruba Trading Company, Miriam Webb and Edward Quijada waited for the Ladies with their second cocktail of the

'opened the possibilities' for a great social hour over slices of the restaurant's famous gourmet pizza. Gisela Werner won the longest drive, and was awarded Disaronno and Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label



from Champagne, France, as well as a gift from the Aruba Trading Company. Golfers Annie Van Schaijk and Caricia Bernabela came in first with Diny Grol and Conny Peck in second, also receiving Disaronno gifts to go, Champagne and a goodie-bag from the Aruba Trading Company. Amaretto Disaronno is an

Italian liqueur with a characteristic bittersweet almond taste, it is the original Italian favorite flavored with fruits and herbs and carried on the island by the Aruba Trading Company. The day was orchestrated by Tabitha J. Fecunda, Island Marketing & Promotion Manager, The Links at Divi Aruba. □



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national Art teachers Allijan Moehamad from Amsterdam and Eyman Osman from London. A picture tells a thousand words! How many times have you heard someone say that? The Art Rules

Aruba photography workshop, will teach students how this comes together. From learning how to direct a photo shoot to creating documentary photography and classes on what it takes to produce the best family portrait, the Art Rules Aruba Photography workshop will have it all.

Presented by professional photographer Allijan Moehamad who hails from Amsterdam and lives by the motto "Don't forget to look before you shoot", and you will never lose yourself". Allijan graduated from the Photography Academy in Den Haag and has worked for brands including Evisu, Bueblood, Denham, Mexx, K-Swiss just to name a few. Mostly working as a fashion photographer Allijan gets to express his personal interest in photography by shooting a lot of artistic pictures.

Working with Allijan is Londoner Eyman Osman. Although having a serious love and passion for Photography Eyman completed a PhD in the field of gene therapy. Originally born in Sudan, where science and medicine are core fields in education, it was natural for her to pursue a career in science and medical research. Doing this she has achieved a spectrum of skills, which has allowed Eyman to peruse her passion for photography by sharing her experiences through the lens. Eyman has recently returned from Ethiopia where she volunteered at an orphanage taking pictures of her journey with the camera; creating a documentary of her work and experiences. How to Apply?

Having accepted more than 190 students for the program, Art Rules Aruba still has a few places left for anyone between the ages of 13-25. If you want to experience this amazing opportunity and work with Allijan and Eyman sign up now by visiting www.artrulesaruba.com and click on application form.

Other workshops offered are Film, Dance, DJ, The-

Pancake gallery



ater, Rap & Poetry, Fashion Design, Painting and the bonus project, the 25 year Status Aparte Mural. Cost for the program is Afl. 200/\$112 for 3 weeks and covers the participation in the program, all class materials, snacks & beverages during classes, bus transportation to the workshop and an Art Rules Aruba t-shirt. RBC/RBT and Valero are giving away scholarships for the program, which means that Art Rules Aruba can be free. All you have to do is write an awesome motivation letter when you apply!

Application deadline is July 1st! So be QUICK!

Art Rules Aruba 2011 is also sponsored by Directie Cultuur, Aruba Bank, Europcar, BYD, Redsail Sports, Coca Cola, Cohen Foundation, Unoca, Triple A, Cultuur Participatie, Atelier 89, VNO, Tropicana Hotel, Playa Linda, La Cabana, Ernst & Young and Jaro Healthcare. Sponsors and partners welcome all the Art Rules Aruba 2011 students to the program wishing everybody the best of luck and an amazing summer experience! ☐

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Greece and its lenders agree on austerity plan

RACHEL DONADIO
NIKI KITSANTONIS
© 2011 New York Times

ATHENS, Greece – Greece and its foreign lenders reached an agreement on Thursday on a five-year austerity plan that Prime Minister George Papandreou must now push through Parliament in order for Greece to stave off default. Last week, the EU, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund, known as the troika, unexpectedly withheld the next installment of \$17 billion in emergency aid to Greece over concerns that its blistering program of austerity measures might be falling short of its goals. That set off a week of market turmoil and political uncertainty in Greece that was calmed on Tuesday after Papandreou obtained a parliamentary vote of confidence on a new cabinet. Markets recovered from an early swoon on Thursday after reports that Greece and the troika had reached a deal, which includes an additional \$5.4 billion in tax increases and spending cuts. In a news conference in Athens, the new finance minister, Evangelos Venizelos, said that some of the new revenue would come from changes in income tax rules, a \$430 annual charge to the thousands of self-employed Greek workers and an increase in the tax on heating oil. A Socialist Party veteran known for



Protesters sing the national anthem in front of the Greek parliament in central Athens, Thursday, June 23, 2011. Several thousand protesters have been gathering daily for almost a month to protest fiscal austerity measures and demand that Greece stop paying its debts, while denouncing politicians of all types as incompetent and corrupt.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

his ability to rally his troops, Venizelos also dashed any talk of tax cuts – which the center-right opposition had favored. He said the government's immediate aim was to push the measures through Parliament and secure the release of a new round of emergency financing. Amid heated debate in Brussels on Thursday, Olli Rehn, the European commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, said that the EU was prepared to give Greece some stimulus spending – something numerous economists have suggested would help Greece emerge from its “debt trap,” in which it is unable to return to growth while slashing state spending. But “the first thing is that Greece must help it-

self so that the other Europeans can help Greece,” Rehn added. “That’s the

bottom line.” Venizelos said the Greek government's key goals were to “regain our credibility, to lay the foundations for more effective negotiations aimed at tackling our fiscal problems and reducing our debt.” But he added that it was “most crucial” for Parliament next week to pass the bill on the new austerity measures – which will include the sale of about \$70 billion in state assets – and a second bill on the fast-track implementation of the previous austerity measures. The two votes are expected next week. Venizelos said the recovery program for Greece was based on three “pillars:” completion of the privatization program, the participation of private banks

and a new loan from the country's foreign creditors. He added that next week Parliament would begin debating a “radical overhaul of the tax system.” Venizelos said the government was “encouraging” Greek banks to participate in efforts to prop up the beleaguered economy, and he stressed that the program was voluntary. Ratings agencies have made clear that they would regard any forced rollovers of Greece's debt as a default. “We must be totally honest with the Greek people,” Venizelos said. “We must begin now with the implementation of the measures, as we can't keep asking for more sacrifices. The point is now to keep our heads above water.” □

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Mexico president defends attack on organized crime

KATHERINE CORCORAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Felipe Calderon made an impassioned defense of his military assault on organized crime in an unusual public faceoff Thursday with his biggest critics: sometimes weeping relatives of murder victims who blame the government for the bloodshed. Poet Javier Sicilia, who lost his son to drug violence in March, opened the publicly televised exchange by demanding that Calderon take the military off the streets and apologize to victims for a failed strategy that he and others say have caused more than 35,000 deaths since Calderon took office in late 2006. "Where are the benefits of this strategy?" Sicilia asked Calderon, ticking off a list of cases where people have gone unpunished, from drug violence to a 2009 day-care fire that killed 49 children.

"You don't have anything to show us, and we are not politicians, we are citizens." The meeting at Mexico City's historic Chapultepec Castle was emotionally charged, with a mother breaking down in tears as she demanded results into the investigation of her four missing sons, and a relative of two slaying victims of drug traffickers holding back tears while he asked for an update in their case. Sicilia said that Calderon is "obligated to apologize to the nation and in particular to the victims." Surrounded by grim-faced top Cabinet members and the first lady, the president pointed his finger and pounded the table to emphasize that with crimi-

nal gangs seeking to control Mexico, it would have been irresponsible not to act.

"I agree that we must apologize for not protecting the lives of victims, but not for

worked for decades," said John Ackerman of the legal research institute at Mexico's National Autonomous University.

"They're open and willing to talk and have a meet-



Mexico's President Felipe Calderon, left, and poet turned peace activist Javier Sicilia embrace during a meeting with victims of violence in Mexico City, Thursday June 23, 2011. Calderon says he doesn't regret his strategy to fight organized crime, despite calls to end a confrontation that has killed at least 35,000 during his administration.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

having acted against the criminals," Calderon said. "One thing I regret is not having sent (the military) before."

Several people have been arrested in the March 28 slaying of Sicilia's son, Juan Francisco Sicilia, a college student who authorities say was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Calderon repeated what has become the mantra for his administration: that criminals, not the government, are causing the violence. "Francisco was killed by criminals, not federal forces," he said.

While the face-to-face confrontation seemed dramatic, most observers expected little to come of it. "It's the typical way the Mexican government has

ing, but from that to actually taking things into account ... is another thing." Some saw the public confrontation as benefiting Calderon, giving him a wide audience for his message, while Sicilia's proposals to focus on cleaning up institutions and attacking corruption are things the government says it's already doing.

One of the most concrete demands from his group is for a memorial that names all drug war victims.

"They don't understand the phenomenon of drug trafficking, so they have presented a package of proposals that have nothing to do with public policy," said columnist Raymundo Riva Palacio. "All of their proposals are emotional." □

Chavez opponents demand probe into prison violence

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Opposition lawmakers called for a congressional investigation into allegedly corrupt guards and the trafficking of guns and drugs inside Venezuela's prisons Wednesday as a bloody clash between National Guard troops and inmates stretched into a sixth day.

Officials in President Hugo Chavez's administration have conceded that corruption is a major problem among prison guards who take bribes in exchange for contraband, but the pro-Chavez lawmakers who hold a majority in the National Assembly have not launched a congressional investigation.

Instead, they pledged

drugs and ammunition inside Venezuelan prisons must be investigated," opposition lawmaker William Ojeda told a news conference.

A 5,000-strong security force has engaged in gun battles with inmates at the two prisons since the military launched a weapons search Friday. One inmate and two National Guard troops have been killed, and at least 20 troops have been wounded, officials have said.

Inmates claim several fellow prisoners have also suffered injuries and urgently require medical treatment. Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said officials made progress toward ending the conflict on Wednesday



An unidentified woman passes with a child near a line of National Guard soldiers outside El Rodeo II prison in Guatire, Venezuela. Violence erupted in the El Rodeo I prison on June 12 when a riot broke out that left 22 people dead.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Wednesday to launch an investigation into what they say is the private news media's slanted coverage of the violence at the adjacent Rodeo I and Rodeo II prisons in the city of Guatire, just outside the capital of Caracas.

"The media tries to spread disinformation as a means of creating confusion," said Dario Vivas, a ruling-party lawmaker.

Government opponents say that charge is just a ruse to distract the population from the problems inside the country's prisons. "The trafficking of firearms,

after making contact with leaders of the rebellious prisoners.

"We established direct communication with the spokesmen for the first time today," he said.

El Aissami told state television that "hostilities ceased" at Rodeo II and he expressed hope for a peaceful end to the conflict on Thursday.

Venezuela's 30 prisons were built to house 12,500 inmates, but hold about 49,000, according to the Venezuelan Prisons Observatory, a group that monitors prison conditions. □

Princess cancels port calls in Puerto Vallarta

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A cruise line says it is canceling stops in the Mexican port of Puerto Vallarta later this year to protect its passengers from the violence. A spokeswoman for Prin-

cess Cruises, a brand of Carnival Corp., says the company has dropped three calls in November and December. Karen Candy said in an email statement to The Associ-

ated Press Thursday that the ships will now have longer stops in Ensenada and Cabo San Lucas. She said the line is worried about security in Puerto Vallarta's surrounding areas. □



US Agriculture Minister Tom Vilsack during a press conference during the G20 Agriculture summit, in Paris, Thursday June 23, 2011. The largest economies in the world agreed Thursday to take a series of measures to stabilize world food prices after years of sudden fluctuations caused global instability, especially in poorer countries.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

G-20 officials agree: stabilize food prices

M. SALTMARSH

S. ERLANGER

© 2011 New York Times

PARIS – Agriculture ministers from the Group of 20 leading economies agreed Thursday on measures intended to lift global production and improve supplies of basic foods, while mitigating price swings.

The agreements were hailed by ministers as important steps, although some advocates said they did not go far enough, especially in tackling biofuel subsidies. The initiatives included creating a database on food stocks to be managed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome; a joint international research program on wheat; strengthening support for research into rice production; and a "rapid response forum" among Group of 20 members to assess and respond to food crises. While investment in production was encouraged, the ministers did not offer specifics. The ministers also agreed, in hard bargaining late Wednesday night, to remove export restrictions on food for humanitarian purposes and reaffirmed their opposition to export bans – an issue that will be taken up by the World Trade Organization. □

Syria's ailing economy poses a new risk for leadership

ANTHONY SHADID

© 2011 New York Times

BEIRUT – Hotels that catered to sandal-wearing backpackers in the storied Syrian city of Aleppo stand empty. Capital from the Persian Gulf that underpinned Syrian ambitions of modernization has begun to dry up. The Syrian pound has faltered, exports have fallen and the government has promised respite with money it will not have for long. In his first address to Syrians in two months, President Bashar Assad warned this week of "the collapse of the Syrian economy." The

words might have been hyperbole, aimed at rallying support for a leadership staggering from a three-month uprising. But the sentiments underlined the danger the economy there poses for a government that long promised its people better lives, even as it refused to surrender any real political power.

As the crisis deepens, Syrians face the prospect of achieving neither. "We as businessmen want a solution, and we can't wait forever," said Muhammad Zaion, a garment dealer in Aleppo. "The president

should find a way out of this crisis, or he should leave it to others.

We need a solution, whatever that solution might be."

For much of the world, Syria's revolt has been viewed, through its politics, as a reaction to the ferocious crackdown deployed by one of the region's most authoritarian governments. But an economy long hailed for its potential – although its stewards have been criticized for its mismanagement – has played no less a role in the upheaval. Market reforms that cut

subsidies on food and fuel over the past seven years stoked frustration, worsened by a devastating drought that began in 2006 and drove 1.5 million people from the countryside to cities without enough jobs. With economists predicting that conditions will worsen over the summer, the health of the economy also may determine how the unrest evolves.

In that, it stands as a case study of the tumult across the Arab world, where political repression has intersected with economic frustration and a more ambiguous sense of humiliation to unleash some of the greatest changes in the region in a generation.

Even analysts sympathetic to Assad acknowledge that his leadership has failed to offer a real plan to redress any of those grievances, other than to warn against the alternative to having him in control.

"Three months into this crisis, the regime is not getting its act together on any front, even the economy, despite the fact that the regime's basis of support relies on that same economy," said an analyst in Syria who, like many interviewed, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the fear of retribution. "The regime has no policy and no strategy at this point."

Since the uprising erupted in mid-March, the most substantial impact on the economy has probably been on tourism, a sector that economists say provides \$8 billion a year. Although the reports are anecdotal, the numbers seem to have fallen off dramatically, save for Iranian pilgrims visiting sacred sites in Damascus. European tourists have changed plans, and the flow of Turks to Aleppo has slowed to a trickle.

One hotel owner in Aleppo, an ancient city and one of the Arab world's most beautiful, said Europeans last visited his hotel in March.

"By July, I am going to close the hotel," said the proprietor, who gave his name as Abu George. □



A Syrian worker who lives in Lebanon holds up portraits of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, as he protests during a pro-Assad demonstration in Saksakiyeh village, south Lebanon, Thursday June 23, 2011. Syrian troops pushed to the Turkish border Thursday in their sweep against a 3-month-old pro-democracy movement, sending panicked refugees, including children, rushing across the frontier to safe havens in Turkey. Arabic below the portrait of Assad reads, "The president leader doctor Bashar Assad".

(AP Photo/Mohammed Zaatari)



Reveler carries a young girl on his back as she reacts while he walks on the burning embers during the night of San Juan in San Pedro Manrique, Spain Friday June 24, 2011.

(AP Photo/Alvaro Barrientos)

4,200 Ethiopian troops proposed for Abyei

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States introduced a U.N. resolution Thursday that would authorize a 4,200-strong Ethiopian peacekeeping force to deploy to Sudan's disputed Abyei region, recently the scene of heavy fighting. U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said the resolution will support an agreement signed Monday by the Khartoum-based government in the north and the government of South Sudan to demilitarize the contested border region near major oil fields that both the north and south claim.

She told reporters that the two parties requested the 4,200 Ethiopian troops to deploy under U.N. auspices and called for swift adoption of the resolution by the Security Council so they can get on the ground in Abyei quickly.

"Ultimately, it's obviously up for the Security Council to decide the strength and the mandate of any U.N. mission," Rice said. "But the United States, in tabling this draft, has sought to remain faithful to the agreement

reached by the parties, which we understand was hard won and inherently fragile."

The violence in Abyei and neighboring South Kordofan state erupted weeks before South Sudan de-

precipitated by a May 19 attack on northern and U.N. troops by southern soldiers. While South Sudan's independence is expected to take place on schedule, key issues remain unresolved including the future



German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, right, shakes hands with his Sudanese counterpart, Ali Ahmed Karti, left, in Khartoum, Sudan, Thursday, June 23, 2011.

(AP Photo/Abd Raouf)

clares independence from the north on July 9, the culmination of a 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of civil war that killed some 2 million people.

The north's invasion of the Abyei region and takeover of the town of Abyei was

of Abyei, which is supposed to be decided in a referendum, the north-south borders, how oil revenues and other resources will be shared, and citizenship.

The sudden outbreak in violence on multiple fronts has greatly increased fears of renewed war. □

Hamas rejects Red Cross plea over captured Israeli soldier

ISABEL KERSHNER

© 2011 New York Times

JERUSALEM — The International Committee of the Red Cross on Thursday demanded that Hamas provide proof that an Israeli soldier captured five years ago and held in Gaza is still alive. Hamas rejected the demand.

The soldier, Staff Sgt. Gilad Shalit, was a 19-year-old corporal at the time that he was seized from Israeli territory by Hamas and other armed groups from Gaza in a cross-border raid that killed two other Israeli soldiers. The fifth anniversary of his capture falls Saturday. He has since been held incommunicado in an unknown location by Hamas, the Islamic militant group that now controls Gaza.

The most recent evidence that he was still alive came in October 2009 when Shalit's captors released a videotape of him talking and holding a Palestinian newspaper published on Sept. 14 of that year. In a deal brokered by German and Egyptian mediators, Israel released 20 female Pales-

tinian prisoners in return.

"The total absence of information concerning Mr. Shalit is completely unacceptable," Yves Daccord, the director general of the international committee, said in a statement Thursday, adding that "the Shalit family have the right under international humanitarian law to be in contact with their son."

The committee said that it had requested access to the Israeli soldier several times but that Hamas had never agreed. Hamas has said in the past that it would not allow access for fear that Shalit's whereabouts might be revealed.

In a separate statement Thursday, the Red Cross also urged Israel to lift its four-year suspension of family visits for hundreds of detainees from Gaza in Israeli prisons.

Yet in response to Hamas' rejection of the Red Cross demand, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, indicated that Israel would toughen the conditions of Palestinians in Israeli prisons who had been convicted of terrorism. □

World Briefs

Mexico explores Mayan tomb

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Researchers have lowered a small camera into a previously unexplored early Mayan tomb at the Palenque archaeological site in southern Mexico, revealing an intact funeral chamber, apparent offerings and red-painted wall murals. Footage of the approximately 1,500-year-old tomb taken by the small, remote-controlled camera show a series of nine figures depicted in black on a vivid, blood-red background. Vases and jade ornaments can be seen on the floor of the small chamber.

The National Institute of Anthropology and History said Thursday archaeologists have known a tomb existed at the site since 1999, but they had been unable to enter it because the pyramid standing above it is unstable and entering the chamber could have damaged the murals. □

Venezuelan ex-president gets crypt

MIAMI (AP) — A judge in Miami says he wants the body of former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez entombed in a temporary crypt next week. Perez's final burial site is the subject of a family feud between his estranged wife in Venezuela and longtime companion in Miami.

The wife says she has the right to bury him in Venezuela. The companion says Perez vowed never to return as long as political foe Hugo Chavez was in power. An August trial is scheduled to decide the matter. The judge said Thursday the entombment should take place on June 30. Perez died Dec. 25 in Miami at age 88. He was Venezuela's president from 1974-79 and 1989-93. □

China-Vatican row over bishops

BEIJING (AP) — China's state-controlled Catholic church says it will move swiftly to appoint new bishops in dioceses where there are none, in a step that is certain to worsen tensions with the Vatican. Filling the more than 40 empty bishop's seats is an urgent task because the vacancies are causing serious problems in the handling of church affairs, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted a spokesman for the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association as saying Thursday.

Bishops must be selected and ordained in an "active and prudent" way, based on national conditions and pastoral and evangelizing work, Yang was quoted as saying. China doesn't have any diplomatic ties with the Vatican, and the authoritarian government claims the right to appoint bishops in defiance of the Holy See's insistence that only it has the authority to do so. □

Talks won't stop Palestinian UN bid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Palestinians say they will be coming to the U.N. in September seeking membership as an independent state even if peace negotiations with Israel are underway.

Palestinian U.N. envoy Riyad Mansour said the Palestinians are working on three independent tracks — restarting negotiations, completing the institutions for an independent state, and gaining additional recognition for a Palestinian state.

"If we succeed in opening the door for negotiations, we're not going to stop from attaining what belongs to us as Palestinians in this General Assembly starting on Sept. 20," he told reporters after the Security Council monthly meeting on the Mideast on Thursday. Israel's U.N. Ambassador Ron Prosor told reporters that "doing anything unilateral would not be constructive." □

'Coffee' documentary gives lawsuits issue a jolt

JOHN SCHWARTZ

© 2011 New York Times

One day in 1992 Stella Liebeck spilled a cup of McDonald's coffee into her lap. Ever since, people have been fighting over what really happened.

Undisputed: Liebeck sued McDonald's, and in 1994 a jury awarded her nearly \$3 million, \$2.7 million of which was punitive damages. The disputed part is all the rest: Liebeck and her legal action quickly became a national symbol of frivolous lawsuits, a source of TV punch lines and outrage from the commentariat. The business world used the moment for what became known as tort reform, while others called it a blatant effort to bar the courthouse door. And in it all, Liebeck's story was largely lost.

So the story of Stella Liebeck opens the new documentary "Hot Coffee," which will be shown Monday on HBO, part of its summer documentary series.

"Everybody knows – or thinks they know – the McDonald's case," said Susan Saladoff, who put her legal practice aside to direct and produce the film. "But they really don't know it at all. I didn't do this to become a filmmaker. I made this movie because I had something to say that needed to be said, and nobody else was saying it, at least to regular folks, to the public."

That message may be getting across. Ann Hornaday of The Washington Post, reviewing the film at the Sundance Festival, wrote that it provided "the kind of narrative that sends audiences out of the theater thinking in a brand-new way about something they thought they understood." With a subject this fought-over it's not surprising that the documentary itself has been controversial. A legal affairs blog that covers product liability law, Abnormal Use, criticized the film for having come from the hands of a trial lawyer, stating, "We're thinking that this might not be the most objective documentary on the subject."

Of course that wasn't really the filmmaker's goal. Saladoff is, as a lawyer and now a director, an advocate.

One of several strands in the film, Liebeck's story shows how tort reformers deftly spun her case and others to nudge public opinion and argue for the need to shut down what industry advocates called "jackpot justice." The film also lays out facts of the case that are rarely heard. Many believe she was driving the car and juggling a cup of coffee – classic recklessness. In fact Liebeck's nephew was at the wheel and was not going through the drive-through window. He had pulled into a space in the McDonald's parking lot so that she could add cream and sugar to her coffee. She has been portrayed as a greedy plaintiff out for a bonanza, but she did not sue right away and initially asked McDonald's only for the several thousand dollars to cover



Stella Liebeck, who sued McDonald's after being severely burned by coffee, during a scene in the documentary film "Hot Coffee," by Susan Saladoff, in an undated handout screengrab. "Hot Coffee," to be shown Monday on HBO, puts a human face on the controversial issue of frivolous lawsuits.

(HBO via The New York Times)



A billboard put up by Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, during a scene in the documentary film "Hot Coffee," by Susan Saladoff, in an undated handout screengrab.

(HBO via The New York Times)

her medical expenses. The company refused.

And while jurors found that Liebeck was 20 percent responsible for the accident, they were outraged by what they saw as the company's arrogance and decided to punish McDonald's by levying punitive damages amounting to two days' worth of coffee sales. And those making jokes tend to skip the part of the story in which the judge reduced the award and the case

was settled out of court.

"Susan has done a wonderful job of putting the real story out there," said Judy Allen, Liebeck's daughter. "We feel relief."

The film's most powerful argument, however, might be the horrifying photographic evidence of Liebeck's third-degree burns, presented indirectly at first through shocked reaction shots during man-on-the-street interviews. Then the audience gets to see.

"You hear this unanimous gasp through the whole theater," said Allen, who teaches autistic children in Virginia.

Besides Liebeck's case, the film looks at a number of other issues about civil lawsuits, including binding clauses in contracts – for matters from cellphones to employment – that sign away the right to go to court. That segment focuses on Jamie Leigh Jones, who said she was raped while working in Iraq

for KBR, but whose civil lawsuit was initially blocked in court based on a clause in her employment contract.

The film also uses the story of Lisa and Mike Gourley, a Nebraska couple, to illustrate the effects of caps on damages. The Gourleys' son Colin was born in 1993 with cerebral palsy attributed to medical malpractice. A jury awarded them \$5.6 million to pay his life-long medical needs.

But the state Legislature had capped overall damages for medical malpractice at \$1.75 million. After legal bills and other expenses, the award did not amount to much, Gourley says in the film, and so "what happens then is, he goes on Medicaid, and the taxpayers have to pay." Saladoff has structured an argument that America has narrowed access to the courts in many ways.

"It's not like corporate interests took our rights from us," she said. "We're giving over our constitutional rights to the court system" by voting for tort reform measures and politicians and judges who favor them.

"We've been convinced through this massive public-relations campaign," she added. "We're doing it unwittingly."

Before taking the director's chair Saladoff had a successful legal career and is a past president of the group Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, which is now called simply Public Justice.

"You probably know the reason why" the name was shortened, she said. There was much to learn about filmmaking. "I didn't know what an establishment shot is," she said. "I didn't know what B-roll was when I started."

So she surrounded herself with experienced filmmakers – like Cindy Lee, an editor whose credits include the Oscar-nominated Iraq-war documentary "No End in Sight"; Martina Radwan as director of photography (the Oscar-nominated "Ferry Tales"); and Carly Hugo, a producer whose films have appeared at Sundance. □

Standing up to the King



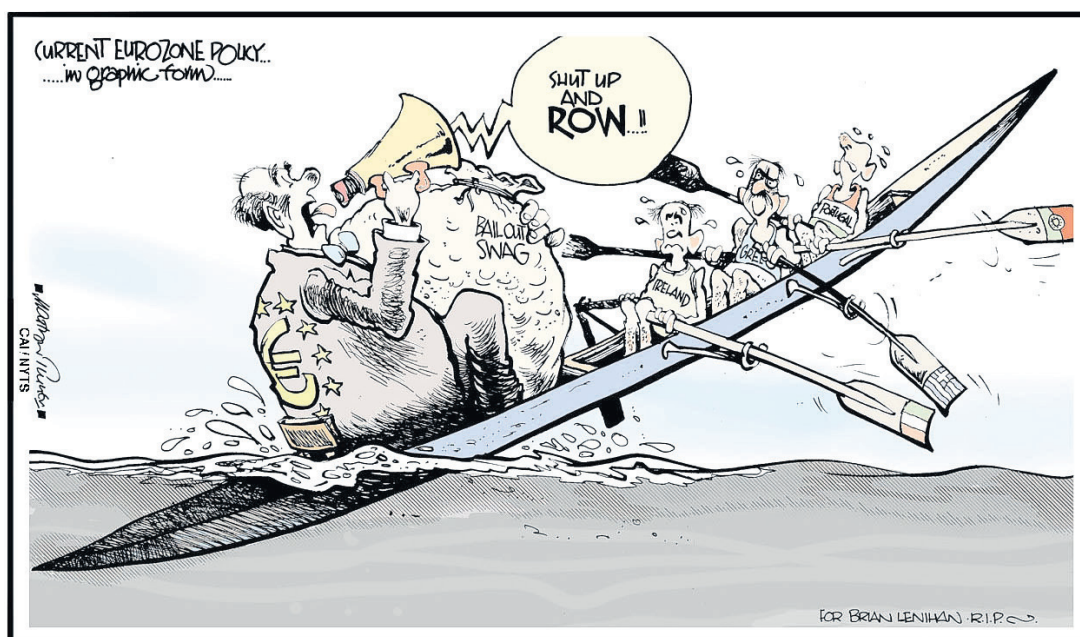
NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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CASABLANCA, Morocco – Perhaps no Arab ruler responded as wisely to this year's pro-democracy protests as the king of Morocco – although that is an exceptionally low bar. When other dictators in the Arab world answered protesters with gunfire, King Mohammed VI grudgingly accepted demonstrations, at least when he was in a good mood. His regime claimed that antigovernment activism underscored the country's openness, and on Friday the king announced constitutional reforms that seem likely to reduce his own role in governing the country. These days, as much of the Arab Spring has faded into an Arab winter of repression, Morocco still feels fairly spring-like. You can tell that from the denunciations of the regime thundered freely on the streets. "We're not a democracy," Sami Mellanki, of the Moroccan Association of Human Rights, told me emphatically. "Morocco is a police state!" Well, yes, Morocco remains repressive and utterly undemocratic. But in most police states, people don't dare call it that – at least not with their names attached. Fouzy Housan, a high school student activist wearing a Che Guevara T-shirt and looking like a protester from central casting, told me that the government was undoubtedly watching us – and then carefully and fearlessly spelled out his name for me to use. I'm starting my annual win-a-trip journey, with a student, Saumya Dave, and a teacher, Noreen Connolly. We're beginning in Morocco partly because it's a somewhat hopeful entry point to Africa. Morocco was once an exceedingly brutal tyranny, but it began to moderate in the 1990s. King Mohammed eased up further on human rights abuses after taking power in 1999. He released many political prisoners, allowed a truth and reconciliation commission, and promoted women's rights. Under the king's auspices, Morocco even has begun training female Islamic clerics, a bit like imams, called

Mourchidat.

Yet the opening has been inconsistent, new political prisoners have been tossed into jails, freedom of the press is still a dream, and repression is particularly suffocating in the Western Sahara region that Morocco annexed while Spain was giving up its colony there. King Mohammed's reign has also overseen a staggering rise in economic corruption. A U.S. diplomatic cable, released through WikiLeaks, suggests that the palace uses government institutions "to coerce and solicit bribes." Indignant citizens used Facebook to organize major protests early this year. The king (who declined to be interviewed) seemed to take heed, for in March he promised substantial reforms. It's troubling that even as the king has been talking about reform, he has engaged in a violent crackdown on peaceful protesters in the last few months. One demonstrator died, apparently from his injuries. But the repression was just harsh enough to inflame protesters, not terrifying enough to scare them into staying home. "Everybody gets hit," Aymane Aoudi, a 20-year-old college student and activist, told me. "They even hit women and children." Another student, Imad Iddine Habib, proudly told me that he had been arrested three times this spring, and beaten two of those times. But the beatings become badges of honor among young people – more of an inducement to protest than a deterrent. The king perhaps realized that he was digging himself deeper, because this month the regime has mostly refrained from beatings. The government now seems at a turning point. If he does embark on wider democratic reform, he could make Morocco – already a pretty remarkable and wonderful country, where the semi-banned Islamist movement is so mellow that it has a female spokesman who advocates for women's rights – even more of a trailblazer. Morocco would show Middle Eastern rulers that they can respond to popular pressure with ballots rather than bullets. In my conversations with protesters here, I keep noting how much better off they are than those in Syria or Yemen. But they don't care about that: they keep noting how repressed they are compared with Americans or Europeans. Maybe Morocco can help bridge that gap. I don't know if King Mohammed will do the right thing, but there's a whisker of hope. If he moves over time toward turning Morocco into a British-style limited monarchy, that might be a historic step from a stormy Arab Spring to a balmy Arab summer. □



MAUREEN DOWD

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With his cigars, blogs, Jameson's and Irish affability, New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan prides himself on his gumption. Certainly his effort to kill the gay marriage bill, just one vote away from passing in Albany, shows a lot of gall. The archbishop has been ferocious in fighting against marriage between same-sex couples, painting it as a perversity against nature. If only his church had been as ferocious in fighting against the true perversity against nature: the unending horror of pedophile priests and the children who trusted them. In the second-generation round of the Church vs. Cuomo, Dolan is pitted against Andrew Cuomo, the Catholic governor who is fiercely pushing for New York to become the sixth and most populous state to approve gay marriage. Cuomo was already on the wrong side of the church for his support of abortion rights, his divorce and his living in "sin" with the Food Network star Sandra Lee. He was accused by the Vatican adviser Edward Peters of "public concubinage," as it's known in canon law, and Peters recommended that Cuomo be denied communion until he resolved "the scandal" by ceasing this "cohabiting." And therein lies the casuistry. On one hand, as Peters told

The Archbishop vs. the Governor

The New York Times about Cuomo and Lee, "men and women are not supposed to live together without benefit of matrimony." But then the church denies the benefit of marriage to same-sex couples living together. Dolan insists that marriage between a man and a woman is "hard-wired" by God and nature. But the church refuses to acknowledge that homosexuality may be hard-wired by God and nature as well, and is not a lifestyle choice. Dolan and other church leaders are worried about the exodus of young Catholics who no longer relate to the intolerances of church teaching. He dryly told The Times last year that when he sees long lines of young people on Fifth Avenue waiting to get into a house of worship, it's at Abercrombie & Fitch, not St. Patrick's Cathedral. The church refuses to acknowledge the hypocrisy at its heart: that it became a haven for gay priests even though it declares homosexual sex a sin, and even though it lobbies to stop gays from marrying. In yet another attempt at rationalization, the nation's Catholic bishops – a group Dolan is now in charge of – put out a ridiculous five-year-study last month going with the "blame Woodstock" explanation for the sex-abuse scandal. The report suggested that the problem was caused by permissive secular society rather than cloistered church culture, because priests were trained in the turbulent free-love era. It concluded, absurdly, that neither the all-male celibate priesthood nor homosexuality were causes. In another resistance to reform, the bishops voted on Thursday to keep their policies on sexual abuse by the clergy largely the same, with only small revisions, ignoring victims' advocates who were hoping for meaningful changes. At their meeting in Bellevue, Wash., one retired archbishop from Anchorage, Alaska, ac-

tually proposed an amendment to get rid of the "zero tolerance" provision on abuse so some guilty priests could return to parishes. That failed, at least. If God and nature are so clear about what marriage is, why do the well-connected have an easier time getting the church to sunder their marriages with annulments? (Yes, we're talking about you, Newt Gingrich.) In his blog, "The Gospel in the Digital Age," Dolan invokes not just God but Orwell, denouncing the "perilous presumption of the state" in reinventing the definition of marriage, which, he says, "has served as the very cornerstone of civilization and culture from the start." The Starchbishop noted with asperity that, "Last time I consulted an atlas, it is clear we are living in New York, in the United States of America – not in China or North Korea," where "communiques from the government can dictate the size of families, who lives and who dies, and what the very definition of 'family' and 'marriage' means." Yeah. Not like the Vatican. In the same blog, Dolan snidely dismissed the notion that gay marriage is a civil right. "We acknowledge that not every desire, urge, want, or chic cause is automatically a 'right,'" he wrote. "And, what about other rights, like that of a child to be raised in a family with a mom and a dad?" And how about the right of a child not to be molested by the parish priest? Dolan acts like getting married (when done by gays) is a self-indulgent act of hedonism when it's really a leap of faith and a promise of fidelity. Worn out by the rampant sexting of Anthony Weiner and the relentless blogging of Dolan, I'm wondering if our institutions need to rejigger: Maybe pols should be celibate and priests should be married. □

Border war: U.S. vs. Mexico in Gold Cup final again

United States' Clint Dempsey, center, is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal against Panama during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match Wednesday, June 22, 2011, in Houston.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, June 24, 2011

Li Na beaten in 2nd round by Lisicki



Germany's Sabine Lisicki reacts after defeating China's Li Na at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 23, 2011.

Associated Press

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— French Open champion Li Na squandered two match points and lost in the second round of Wimbledon on Thursday to German wild card Sabine Lisicki, the biggest upset of the tournament so far.

The 62nd-ranked Lisicki erased both match points with service winners in the ninth game of the third set and beat the third-seeded Chinese player 3-6, 6-4, 8-6 under the roof on Centre Court. Other winners on Day 4 included six-time champion Roger Federer, women's defending titlist Serena Williams and second-seeded Novak Djokovic.

Continued on Page B2

NO RIGGLE ROOM



Riggleman abruptly quits as Nationals manager

Washington Nationals manager Jim Riggleman watches his team during the ninth inning of an interleague baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Washington, Sunday, June 19, 2011. The Orioles beat the Nationals 7-4.

Associated Press
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Cavaliers take Irving with No. 1 pick in NBA draft



NBA Commissioner David Stern, left, poses with the No. 1 overall draft pick, Kyrie Irving, of Duke, who was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA basketball draft Thursday, June, 23, 2011, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)
 — The Cleveland Cavaliers selected Kyrie Irving

with the No. 1 pick Thursday, making the Duke point guard their first of two choices in the top four of the NBA draft.

Loudly cheered by family and friends not far from where he starred at St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, Irving showed no signs of any lingering problems with a right foot injury as he walked up the stairs to shake hands with Commissioner David Stern. Despite playing 11 games in his only college season because of a toe injury, Irving was too good to pass up with the Cavaliers' first No. 1 pick since taking LeBron James in 2003.

The draft gives them a chance to quickly rebuild less than a year after James left for Miami, as they also owned the No. 4 selection that they used on Texas forward Tristan Thompson. Irving has said he has no health concerns, making him the best choice in what's been called a weak

draft.

"Looking forward to getting to Cleveland, feels good to finally put a hat on," Irving said.

The Minnesota Timberwolves took Arizona forward Derrick Williams with the No. 2 pick.

The Utah Jazz then took Turkish big man Enes Kanter third with their first of two lottery selections.

The league's uncertain labor hung over the draft, and likely weakened it. Potential top-10 picks such as Jared Sullinger of Ohio State and Harrison Barnes were among those who decided to stay in school, without knowing when their rookie seasons would have started.

Stern, who could lock out his players next week if a deal for a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached, was booed

when he came onto the stage at the Prudential Center, which is hosting the draft while its usual home, Madison Square Garden, is undergoing summer work. So the draft is filled with question marks, with a number of unknown European players expected to go in the first round. Kanter hasn't played competitively in a year, forced to sit out last season at Kentucky after being ruled ineligible for being paid to play in Turkey.

Lithuania's Jonas Valanciunas went fifth to Toronto and Jan Vesely of the Czech Republic was taken sixth by Washington. Bismack Biyombo of Congo went seventh to Sacramento — a pick that will be traded — as the record of nine international first-round picks in 2003 quickly became threatened. □

Continued on Page B2

After Li hit a forehand long on Lisicki's third match point, the 21-year-old German fell to her knees at the baseline and put her head to the turf. She broke into tears at her court-side chair. "My emotions are so, I mean, just over the moon," said Lisicki, who served 17 aces and had 32 winners. "It's just amazing."

Li was up 4-2 in the third set and twice served for the match but was broken each time. She had won 14 of her previous 15 Grand Slam matches in 2011, reaching the final at the Australian Open, then becoming China's first major singles champion at Roland Garros last month.

"Tough match," Li said. "But I think both players today played great. Nothing wrong, just unlucky. I have two match points. But I can do nothing for these two match points."

Lisicki has now won 12 of her last 13 matches on grass, including reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2009 and winning a tuneup tournament in Birmingham this month. She missed five months last season with a left ankle injury, and she fell out of the top 200 in the rankings.



China's Li Na gestures during her match against Germany's Sabine Lisicki at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 23, 2011.

Associated Press

"It was very, very hard," she said. "I really had to start from zero after being on crutches for seven weeks so it just means so much to me, you know, winning the title in Birmingham and getting the wild card here. I appreciate it so much, to be back in Wimbledon. It's just a place that I love so much." At 5-3 down in the third, Lisicki fell behind 15-40 on her serve and faced two match points. She came up with two service winners at more than 120 mph (193 kph) and two

straight aces — including a 124 mph (200 kph) delivery, the fastest by any woman this year.

Li served for the match at 5-4 and 6-5 but couldn't convert. "I just wanted to enjoy myself here and that's what I'm doing," Lisicki said. "That's what I told myself on the third set when I was down a break and she was serving for the match and I was just fighting and I wanted to stay longer out there."

"The crowd was cheering. I didn't know it could

get so loud in there. It was just amazing. I loved it out there. The support was just amazing."

Li said she couldn't handle Lisicki's huge serve.

"Start of the first point until the end of the match, every serve was like around 117 miles (per hour)," she said. "I mean, this is impossible for the women."

Li reached the quarterfinals here in 2006 and 2010. Her landmark victory in Paris last month was watched by a reported 116 million people in China.

"I didn't feel different," she said Thursday. "I didn't feel pressure. Only change is right now opponents see you different. They (have) nothing to lose. So they can play best tennis on the court." Federer, playing the last match on Centre Court, needed only 1 hour, 28 minutes to put away Adrian Mannarino of France, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. With his parents watching from the Royal Box, the third-seeded Swiss finished the match in style — soaring high in the air for a flying overhead smash. It was the first time Federer has played under the roof on the court where he has made his name as perhaps the greatest player of all time. Fans held up play by doing the wave before Federer served for the match. "It was very nice to play indoors for the first time," he said. "I've played on Centre Court for 10 straight years. The atmosphere was fantastic. It very nice for me to have such a standing ovation every time. I thought the conditions were fantastic from start to finish." Earlier, Williams recovered from a poor start to defeat Romania's Simona Halep 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 and move into the third round, staying on course for a fifth title. □

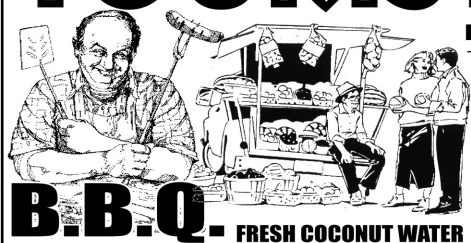
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Interleague Roundup

Riggleman resigns after Nationals top Mariners 1-0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington Nationals manager Jim Riggleman abruptly resigned after beating the Seattle Mariners 1-0 in interleague play on Thursday for their 11th win in 12 games. General manager Mike Rizzo said Riggleman quit after he requested the team pick up the option on his contract for 2012 and the club declined. The team will name an interim manager Friday before the Nationals face the White Sox. Riggleman has been seeking more security for some time. He had a \$600,000 contract this year and the Nationals held a team option for 2012 at \$600,000. He took over for Manny Acta on an interim basis in 2009. Rizzo said the Nationals were stunned by the move that comes as the Nationals were playing some of the best baseball in MLB.

Riggleman's resignation came moments after Laynce Nix hit a game-ending sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth, giving Washington a winning record for the first time since April 20. Nix's fly to left off Chris Ray (3-2) was deep enough to score Danny Espinosa. The Nationals swept the Mariners with three one-run victories, giving Seattle a losing record for the first time since May 25. **Giants 2, Twins 1** At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum struck out 12 in seven superb innings, helping San Francisco win a second straight game following a season-long five-game losing streak. Miguel Tejada and Cody Ross drove in runs for the Giants. Michael Cuddyer extended his hitting streak to 12 games with three hits and an RBI for Minnesota, which lost its second in a

row after a season-best eight-game win streak. The Twins are 15-4 since their last losing rut. Lincecum (6-6) rebounded from a rash of poor starts. He gave up three hits, walked two and never allowed a runner past second base. **Mets 4, Athletics 1** At New York, Chris Capuano pitched six scoreless innings before leaving with a tweak on his right side, and Jose Reyes took advantage of Oakland's shaky new first basemen with a pair of RBI singles and a run to help New York win. After the start of the game was delayed by rain for 2 hours, 15 minutes, the Mets won their second in a row. They beat the A's on Wednesday in a rain-interrupted game that took 13 innings and ended after midnight. Capuano (6-7) shut down the A's on five hits without



Washington Nationals' Danny Espinosa, right, slides in home for the winning run as Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Chris Ray covers during the ninth inning of an interleague baseball game in Washington, Thursday, June, 23, 2011. Espinosa scored from third on a sacrifice fly by Laynce Nix.

Associated Press

a walk and struck out seven. He left with discomfort in his abdomen. □

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matinee: 12:30 - 3:00
late show: 11:00 PG

HANGOVER 2
daily: 4:30 - 6:45 - 9:00
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15
late show: 11:30 SP R

X-MEN FIRST CLASS
daily: 4:15 - 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 1:45
late show: 12:00 PG-13



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matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 SP NEW PG

BAD TEACHER
daily: 5:30 - 7:45 - 9:45
matinee: 1:00 - 3:15
late show: 12:00 NEW R

KUNG FU PANDA
daily: 4:45
matinee: 12:15 - 2:30
late show: SP PG

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
daily: 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:15
matinee: 1:15
late show: 11:45 PG

HANGOVER 2
daily: 5:17 - 7:30 - 9:45
matinee: 12:45 - 3:00
late show: 12:00 SP R

X-MEN FIRST CLASS
daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00
matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30 PG-13

SUPER 8
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SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL salary cap rises to \$64.3M

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL salary cap is going up again, marking the fifth consecutive year it has risen since it was established for the 2005-06 season.

Teams will have \$64.3 million to spend next season, an increase from \$59.4 million, the league and the NHL Players' Association said on Thursday. All 30 clubs must spend a minimum of \$48.3 million on payroll, \$9.3 million above the original upper cap limit of \$39 million set six years ago following the season-long lockout.

The cap is based on a percentage of revenues from the previous season. The \$4.9 million increase in the largest since a record \$6.4 million jump before the 2008-09 season. The cap rose a total of only \$2.7 million in the previous two years.

The floor of the cap is always \$16 million below the ceiling figure. □

Longo-Ciprelli wins French title

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli won the French time trial for the fourth straight year at the age of 52 on Thursday, notching her 58th national title in road and track events.

The former Olympic and world champion finished the 19-kilometer (11.8-mile) course in 29 minutes, 45 seconds. She finished 42 seconds ahead of Christel Ferrier Bruneau and 52 in front of Audrey Cordon.

Longo-Ciprelli said earlier this year she was struggling to find the motivation to keep cycling and hinted at retirement.

Having first competed at the Olympics in 1984 in Los Angeles, Longo-Ciprelli won the road race gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games. She also has nine road world championship golds and four titles at the world track championships. □

Union: Owners still demand too much in NBA talks

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Union officials said Wednesday that NBA players and owners are about \$7 billion apart over a 10-year span in their most recent proposals, a significant gap to close to avoid a work stoppage.

So far apart in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement that union president Derek Fisher said when players are briefed on the state of the talks, they are in "total disbelief" and ask why they even bother having meetings.

"When we put our spreadsheets up, we put it on the board, we lay it out, everybody's at a loss for how to even begin to close this gap," the Lakers' guard said.

They have only until June 30, when the current CBA expires, and they'll take another crack at it during another session Friday.

But as they continue to disagree over issues relating to the salary cap as well as the enormous gap in economics, it becomes clear how difficult it will be to avoid a lockout.

"Their demand is gargantuan and we just can't meet it," executive director Billy Hunter said.

Hunter and Fisher decided to meet with reporters after being caught off guard Tuesday when NBA Commissioner David Stern revealed details of the league's latest proposal during a press conference after a bargaining session. Both sides had largely kept specifics from the media during the negotiations.

Yet Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver laid out their proposal for what they called a "flex cap," in which teams would be targeted to spend \$62 million in salary, but could exceed that number through the use of exceptions to an unspecified level before the ceiling kicked in.

The biggest surprise for the union: They said owners never mentioned the \$62 million figure to them dur-



National Basketball Players Association union president Derek Fisher, of the Los Angeles Lakers, listens as NBPA executive director Billy Hunter, right, speaks during a news conference, Thursday, June 23, 2011, with NBA players standing behind them in New York. The NBA's collective bargaining agreement expires June 30 and the sides remain far apart. Fisher said players won't accept a bad deal to avoid a work stoppage.

Associated Press

ing discussions.

Players insist what was proposed was still a hard cap because there was an eventual limit, and they have said from the start they will not agree to a hard cap.

Fisher said the "flex" cap was a "total distortion of reality," saying "it's not a flexible cap, it's a hard cap."

Hunter allowed that the players would have to consider a hard cap if they were to receive a much higher cut of revenues. They are currently guaranteed 57 percent, a number they say the league wants to massively decrease.

The league's proposal guaranteed players' total compensation would never fall below \$2 billion a year in a 10-year contract, but players earned \$2.1 billion this season and believe they would earn more in later years as revenues rose.

And they remain against the 10-year deal the league seeks, having proposed their own five-year contract which they say offers giving back \$500 million to owners. The union believes the league wants the unusually long deal — the longest previously has been six years with an option for a seventh — because the league's national TV contract expires after the 2015 season, when it could have more money coming in without having to share it

with the players.

Hunter and Fisher also said even before a new deal, owners already want to take from the players in this one, seeking to withhold about \$160 million in escrow money they would have been paid out from the 2010-11 season in August.

Fisher said that "speaks to the arrogance that they feel" and said players shouldn't be penalized for decisions owners have made that led to their losses.

"I'm not inclined to want to give back money that we've earned to help you in a sense make maybe more mistakes or more poor decisions," Fisher said.

Owners say they are losing \$300 million this season, and players argue that can be addressed by expanded revenue sharing. Stern has said they will have it, but only after the new CBA is completed.

That could still be a while. Owners will meet next Tuesday in Dallas, and Hunter said he expects they will vote there whether to lock out the players.

But he said the players won't accept a bad deal to avoid that.

"I can assure you that we have not lost any of our resilience," the players haven't, and they're willing to hang in there and fight," Hunter said. □

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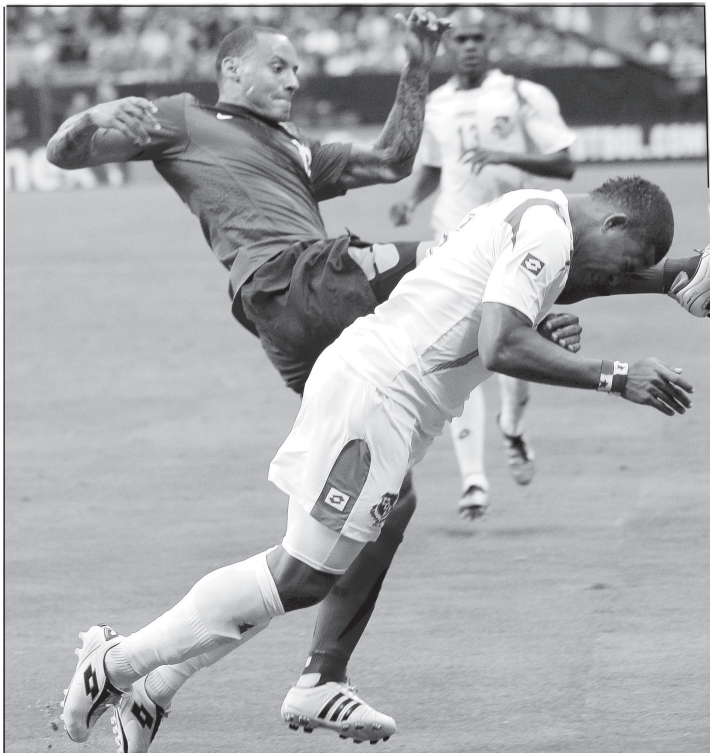
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U.S., Mexico to meet again in Gold Cup final



Panama's Roman Torres, right, tries to head the ball as United States' Juan Agudelo reaches to kick it during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match Wednesday, June 22, 2011, in Houston.

Associated Press

CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The United States will meet Mexico for a third straight Gold Cup final after the two regional powers won hard-fought semifinals on Wednesday. The hosting Americans edged Panama 1-0 with a goal from Clint Dempsey, while Mexico needed extra time and goals from Aldo de Nigris and Javier Hernandez to see off Honduras 2-0.

The U.S. avenged a shock loss to Panama in the group stage; their first ever loss to the central American nation and their first ever defeat in a Gold Cup group-stage game. Fulham forward Dempsey, who also scored in the Americans' 2-0 win over Jamaica in the quarterfinals, said the team proved its resolve in the hard-fought rematch. "We showed our quality in being able to grind out a

result even though it wasn't our best game," Dempsey said. Freddy Adu made a long-awaited return to the American team in the second half, and set up the winning goal with a long, slanting pass to Landon Donovan, who threaded a pass through the Panama defense to Dempsey who slid in to knock the ball into the corner of the net. "It was a great ball from Freddy to open up Landon," Dempsey said. "All I had to do was put my foot on it." Donovan began on the bench for the second straight game, and joined the action in the second half to play his 27th straight Gold Cup match, extending the record he already held. Panama lost to the Americans in the knockout stage for the fourth straight time. Coach Julio Dely Valdes said his team surprised the Americans in their match 11 days ago, and the U.S. was more focused this time. "It was a very

intense game, very few chances for both teams," Dely Valdes said. "I'm pleased with my team's performance, they fought until the very end." In the later game, Mexico was frustrated by the hard-tackling Hondurans and the 90 minutes ended scoreless. Mexico's opponent in Saturday's final will be the United States, which earlier beat Panama 1-0. It will be the third straight Gold Cup final between the two regional powers. In the third minute of extra time, de Nigris put Mexico ahead following a corner, and Manchester United forward Hernandez used his right hip to knock in another corner six minutes later to make it 2-0, delighting the 70,000-strong mainly pro-Mexico crowd. Hernandez leads the tournament with seven goals, the second-most ever in a single Gold Cup. Mexico's Luis Roberto Alves scored 11 in 1993. The young man dubbed 'Chicharito' was

expecting a tough challenge against Mexico's northern neighbor. "They are a complicated rival," Hernandez said. "We have to rest up, enjoy this victory and then we'll think about them beginning tomorrow." Both teams played a physical game, with Honduras getting 10 yellow cards and Mexico three. Roger Espinoza picked up two yellows in quick time in the second period of extra time. "We knew it would be tough," Mexico coach Jose Manuel de La Torre said. "Our team struggled to find the spaces we were looking for, sometimes because of us being imprecise but also because of the rival. But little by little we found them." Honduras coach Luis Fernando Suarez acknowledged that his team wore down in the extra period. "We were always looking to attack," he said. "We need time to become stronger. It's not just 90 minutes, but 120 minutes. □

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US death may be linked to European E. coli **Fight fat!**

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The death of an Arizona man who recently visited Germany may be linked to the food-poisoning outbreak in Europe, health officials said Thursday.

The man, who died in mid-June, developed a serious E. coli complication that can lead to kidney failure. But officials don't know yet if he was sickened by the same bacteria strain that has hit thousands in Europe, mostly in Germany.

If confirmed, it would be the first U.S. death and sixth case tied to the outbreak, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials said the man was over 65 and lived in northern Arizona, but released few other details. His recent trip to Germany — coupled with the kidney complication — sparked suspicion the case was linked to the European illnesses, said Catherine Foley, an epidemiologist with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

So far, there have been five confirmed cases in the United States — two in Michigan and one in Massachu-



In this photo, tomatoes and cucumbers are displayed for sale at a market in Berlin, Germany. The sign reads: cucumbers Kilogramm 99 Cents (1.44 US dlrs). The death of an Arizona man who recently visited Germany may be linked to the food-poisoning outbreak in Europe, health officials said Thursday.

setts, Wisconsin and North Carolina. All but one had recently been to Germany. One Michigan case apparently caught the illness from the other, a relative. Arizona officials are not aware of anyone being infected from close contact with the deceased man, Foley said.

Officials have traced the outbreak to raw vegetable sprouts from a farm in northern Germany. Nearly 3,700 have been reported ill in Germany, including more than 800 with the kidney complication. There have been 42 deaths reported in Germany and one in Sweden.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn,File)

No confirmed cases have been seen in U.S. military personnel or their dependents that are stationed in Germany, CDC officials said. Nor have there been an increase in visits due to gastrointestinal illness at U.S. military medical facilities in Europe. □

Ruling: LA County needn't mandate condoms in porn

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An appeals court has ruled that courts can't compel public health officials to require and enforce condom use in the pornography industry.

The ruling by the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Los Angeles on June 16 upheld the dismissal of the case brought against county health officials in 2009 by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

In its lawsuit, the foundation contended that officials should be compelled to issue a regulatory order requiring adult film performers to wear condoms in sex scenes and get hepatitis B vaccinations.

In upholding a lower court's dismissal of the case, the appeals court said the county health officer has

discretion in his duty to prevent and control disease. "We cannot compel another branch of government to exercise its discretion in a particular manner," the court's three-judge panel wrote in its decision. The advocacy group's lawyer Brian Chase said the case will be appealed to the state Supreme Court. In a statement, county health officials said they were pleased with the dismissal and that their actions have been in accordance with California law. There is no current legislation to mandate condom use. State workplace safety officials are in an early phase of drafting rules that are more specific to the porn industry, in hopes of seeing improved compliance. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has publicly called on state and local officials to enforce the current, openly flouted state workplace safety statute that

requires condom use. The rule is the same that calls on medical professionals to wear protective gear when dealing with patients. The lawsuit was initially filed after the group says it exhausted all other methods to compel the county to protect public health in response to an unidentified porn actress' HIV positive diagnosis in June 2009. "The county of Los Angeles has the duty to protect public health, one of the highest responsibilities of local government. It simply cannot ignore this duty and blithely sit by while thousands of people, both inside and outside the industry, contract" sexually transmitted diseases, said Tom Myers, chief of public affairs and general counsel for AHF. Since the lawsuit was filed, another adult performer has tested HIV positive after performing in gay and straight porn films. □



Former porn actress Ginger Lee listens to questions at a news conference at the Friars Club, in New York. An appeals court has ruled that courts can't compel public health officials to require and enforce condom use in the pornography industry.

(Associated Press)

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

With 1 in 5 U.S. youngsters already overweight or obese by the time they start school, a new report urges steps to help prevent babies, toddlers and preschoolers from getting too pudgy too soon. Topping the list: Better dietary guidelines to help parents and caregivers know just how much toddlers should eat as they transition from baby food to bigger-kid fare. And preschoolers need at least 15 minutes of physical activity for every hour they spend in child care. Thursday's recommendations, from the prestigious Institute of Medicine, are not about putting the very young on a diet. But contrary to popular belief, children don't usually outgrow their baby fat — and that can lead to lasting bad effects on their health as they grow, says the new report. It urges the government, day care centers and preschools to adopt policies that promote healthier weight before tots get on that path. "It's a huge opportunity to instill good habits at a time when you don't have to change old ones," said Leann Birch, director of Pennsylvania State University's Center for Childhood Obesity Research, who chaired the institute's panel. Consider: Babies drink milk until they're full and then turn away. But children as young as 2 or 3 are sensitive to portion size, important in not inadvertently training a child to overeat. "If you give them larger portions, they eat more," Birch explained. Pediatricians generally give pretty explicit directions on how to feed babies. The nation's dietary guidelines include a special section for preschoolers, the 2- to 5-year-olds, that includes such information as a portion size generally is about 1 tablespoon of each food type per year of age. But overall, those national guidelines are aimed at ages 2 and older — even though surveys show even very young children eat too few of the fruits and vegetables they need both for health and to develop a taste for something other than junk food. □

U.S. to issue subpoenas in Google antitrust probe

JOELLE TESSLER

AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A published report says federal regulators are preparing to issue subpoenas to Google and other companies as authorities gather information for a broad antitrust probe into the Internet search leader's business practices.

The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that the Federal Trade Commission will issue subpoenas "within days," which would signal that it has opened a formal investigation.

The FTC is looking into

whether Google abuses its dominance of Internet search to extend its influence into other lucrative online markets, such as mapping, comparison shopping and travel. Rivals complain that Google Inc., which handles two out of every three Internet searches in the U.S., manipulates its results to steer users to its own sites and services and bury links to competitors.

Google and the Federal Trade Commission refused to comment Thursday.

The European Commission and the Texas attorney general have already

opened investigations into whether Google uses its enormous clout as a major gateway to the Internet to stifle competition online. The EU launched its investigation after competitors — U.K.-based price comparison site Foundem, French legal search engine ejudge.fr and Microsoft-owned shopping site Ciao — complained that their services were being buried in Google search results.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee, too, is examining whether Google gives its own services favorable



David Girouard, Google President for Enterprise, speaks during a news conference announcing Wyoming's move to Google Apps for Government on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at the Wyoming State Capitol in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Associated Press

Delay in Kodak patent case against Apple, RIM



In this March 22, 2011 file photo, a customer looks at a Research In Motion BlackBerry Torch using an AT&T carrier, at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif.

By BEN DOBBIN

AP Business Writer

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A federal agency said Thursday it will spend an extra week reviewing Eastman Kodak Co.'s potentially lucrative patent claim against tech giants Apple Inc. and Research In Motion Ltd.

The U.S. International Trade Commission, which oversees trade disputes, had been expected to issue a ruling Thursday but put off completing its investigation until June 30. It gave no further explanation.

A favorable ruling for Kodak could force the smartphone giants into licensing deals worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Rochester-based Kodak filed suit in January 2010.

Its 2001 image-preview patent, it contends, was infringed by iPhone behemoth Apple, of Cupertino, Calif., and Canada-based Research In Motion, maker of the BlackBerry.

It is trying to negotiate a licensing deal that CEO Antonio Perez estimates could be worth up to \$1 billion. The commission can order Customs to block imports of products made with contested technology. It is seen as a fast-track mediator that typically resolves disputes within 18 months. Its rulings often result in swift payment deals.

Kodak has tenaciously protected its intellectual property. It has amassed 11,000

patents, more than 1,000 of them in digital imaging. The technology is viewed as critical to the 131-year-old company's survival in the digital age.

"They regard intellectual property as a key business ... and they feel getting paid for it is a key competency," said James Kelleher, director of research at Argus Research in New York.

Kodak accumulated \$1.9 billion in intellectual-property revenue between 2008 and 2010. Even setting aside any payments it can extract from Apple and RIM, it expects to pick up an average of \$250 million to \$350 million a year from its patent portfolio through 2013.

In 2009, the trade agency ruled that South Korean mobile phone makers Samsung Electronics Co. and LG Electronics Inc. infringed the same Kodak patent, which centers on a method for extracting a still image while previewing it in the camera's LCD screen. Kodak drew a one-time \$550 million royalty payment from Samsung and a \$414 million from LG Electronics. It has licensed digital-imaging technology to about 30 companies, including mobile-device makers such as Motorola Inc. and Nokia Corp. □

treatment in search results and is seeking to have either Google Chairman Eric Schmidt or Chief Executive Larry Page testify before the panel.

Google's rivals welcomed the news of an FTC probe, for which the agency has been laying the groundwork for months.

In a statement, FairSearch.org, a coalition of Internet travel companies including Expedia, Hotwire and Kayak, said, "Google's practices are deserving of full-scale investigations by U.S. antitrust authorities."

"Google engages in anti-competitive behavior across many vertical categories of search that harms consumers by restricting the ability of other companies to compete to put the best products and services in front of Internet users, who should be allowed to pick winners and losers online, not Google," the group said.

Gary Reback, a Silicon Valley lawyer who represents companies competing with Google in other online markets, stressed that any antitrust probe needs take a broad look not only at Google's so-called "organic" search results — which are ranked based on relevance — but also at the so-called "sponsored" results that advertisers pay for. He noted that these, too, tend to place Google's own services on the top. In addition, because Google powers search functionality on many other Web sites, antitrust officials need to look

at organic and sponsored search results on those sites as well, Reback said.

Although the FTC investigation would be the broadest federal inquiry into Google so far, the company is already in the crosshairs of U.S. regulators. In April, the FTC announced a landmark agreement with Google to settle charges that it deceived users and violated its own privacy policy when it launched a social networking service called Buzz last year. The settlement requires Google to adopt a comprehensive privacy program and submit to independent audits of that program every other year for the next 20 years.

Also in April, Justice Department officials extracted significant concessions from Google — many backed by the FairSearch coalition — in exchange for government approval to purchase airfare tracker ITA Software. ITA was the latest in a series of big acquisitions by the search giant. Other big purchases include the 2007 acquisition of Internet advertising network DoubleClick and last year's purchase of mobile ad service AdMob, both of which were approved by the FTC without any conditions.

But to proceed with the ITA purchase, Google had to agree to accept ongoing federal monitoring to ensure it does not engage in anticompetitive behavior, which could include manipulation of search results. □

Oracle's profit tops Street, but worries surface

JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Or-

acle Corp.'s latest quarterly results Thursday underscore the critical role its software business plays, despite the company's push to become a more well-rounded technology vendor by selling computer servers. Oracle's net income increased 36 percent as new sales of business software were at the high end of its expectations. Revenue rose 13 percent.

But the company's stock fell as its hardware division stumbled. The stock rebounded somewhat after Oracle issued guidance that was in-line with analysts' predictions.

Oracle bought fallen Silicon Valley star Sun Microsystems last year for \$7.3 billion. That thrust Oracle into the computer server business.

The transformation has made CEO Larry Ellison one of the world's richest men. It also made an enemy of longtime partner Hewlett-Packard Co.

Ellison has repeatedly said that he wants to focus Sun's

business only on higher-profit deals. As a result, he has warned, some lower-margin deals may fall off. Now that Oracle has had Sun for a full year, the effect of Ellison's strategy is coming into focus.

Oracle said its net income was \$3.21 billion, or 62 cents per share, in its fiscal fourth quarter, which ended May 31. That compares with \$2.36 billion, or 46 cents per share, a year ago.

Excluding stock-based compensation and one-time expenses, Oracle earned 75 cents per share, higher than the 71 cents per share that analysts polled by FactSet expected. Revenue of \$10.78 billion was slightly higher than the \$10.76 billion that analysts expected.

Oracle's software revenue rose 17 percent to \$7.70 billion. Revenue from new software licenses — a key metric for predicting future revenue — came in at the high end of Oracle's previous forecast.



In this March 22, 2011 file photo, the exterior of Oracle headquarters is shown in Redwood City, Calif.

Associated Press

Safra Catz, Oracle's co-president, said revenue growth from new software licenses came without a boost from new acquisitions.

But revenue in its hardware division was flat at \$1.83 billion. Stronger sales of hardware support contracts masked a 6 percent decline in revenue from computers sold.

Investors appeared un-

settled by what they saw. Oracle's stock fell \$2.36, or 7.3 percent, to \$30.40 in extended trading, after the results were reported. It recovered a few percentage points after the guidance was issued during a conference call with financial analysts.

The server market has generally been strong coming out of the Great Recession as companies invest in In-

ternet infrastructure.

What was unclear from Oracle's results was whether its weakness in hardware resulted from a downturn in the market or from competition.

HP and IBM Corp. have relentlessly pursued the customers that Oracle got through the Sun purchase. Sun's share of the server market has declined over the past year. □



In this Jan. 12, 2011 file photo, a 2011 Honda Civic Hybrid is shown at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The Civic was ranked the highest compact car in the J.D. Power and Associates 2011 U.S. Initial Quality Study.

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Owners of cars that were new or redesigned for the 2011 model year are reporting more quality problems, partly because of glitches with the navigation screens, voice-activated systems and other technology packed into their dashboards.

J.D. Power and Associates released its annual survey of new vehicle qual-

ity Thursday. Lexus, Honda and Acura were the top performers. Dodge was the worst-performing brand.

The survey questioned 78,000 people about problems they had with 2011 model-year vehicles in the first 90 days of ownership. Owners reported an average of 107 problems per 100 vehicles. That jumped to 122 problems for cars that were new or redesigned in 2011, up 10 per-

New car quality takes a hit due to technology

cent from 2010 model-year cars and trucks.

J.D. Power said new technology was partly to blame. Complaints about audio, entertainment and navigation systems are up 28 percent from 2009.

"Consumers are interested in having new technology in their vehicles, but automakers must ensure that the technology is ready for prime time," David Sargent, J.D. Power's vice president of global research said in a statement.

New technology is responsible for Ford's declining quality. The brand dropped from fifth place in 2010 to 23rd this year.

Ford launched its My Ford Touch dashboard system

on the Ford Edge and Ford Explorer crossovers in the 2011 model year. The system allows drivers to control climate, navigation, entertainment and other features by voice or through a touch screen.

Ford says 73 percent of owners with My Ford Touch say they're satisfied with the system. But the company acknowledges that My Ford Touch is complex and has been difficult for some buyers to use. Owners have also complained that the system takes a long time to boot up and has many glitches, including failing to recognize voice commands or properly link up with mobile phones.

Ford says it has made software updates to improve the system. It is now offering workshops at dealerships to

help owners get more familiar with the system.

"We expected mixed quality results this year, after closely listening to our customers. This same feedback now shows that we largely are back on track after addressing near-term quality issues," Ford's President of the Americas Mark Fields said in a statement.

The Toyota brand saw a big leap in quality, jumping 14 spots to seventh place. Toyota's 2010 rankings were hurt by a series of safety recalls. Also, Toyota introduced few new products for 2011, so it didn't experience the glitches other manufacturers did.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus luxury brand moved up three spots to take the lead in the survey from Porsche. □

Layoffs, housing data point to chronic problems

DEREK KRAVITZ

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Sour reports Thursday on the number of Americans who sought unemployment benefits and buyers of new homes illustrate what Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged Wednesday: Many factors weighing on the economy are proving to be more chronic than first imagined. Applications for unemployment benefits rose to a seasonally adjusted 429,000 last week, the Labor Department said Thursday. It was the biggest jump in a month and marked the 11th straight week that applications have been above 400,000. Elevated unemployment benefit claims signal a worsening job mar-

ket.

New-home sales fell in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 319,000, the Commerce Department said. That's far below the 700,000 homes per year that economists say must be sold to sustain a healthy housing market. Sales of new homes have fallen 18 percent in the two years since the recession ended. Last year was the worst for new-home sales on records dating back half a century. Stocks tumbled more than 200 points after the weaker data on housing and layoffs were released. It came one day after the Fed lowered its outlook for growth and unemployment for the rest of the year.

But news of an agreement by the 17-country eurozone, the International Monetary

Fund and Greece on a new austerity plan sent stocks higher midday, helping the Dow Jones industrial average recover most of its earlier losses. The Dow closed down nearly 60 points for the day.

"We have had a worrisome string of soft numbers which is painting a fairly bleak picture of the recovery," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "The labor market is weakening according to the jobless claims numbers, confidence appears to be slipping among households and small businesses and home sales are still very depressed."

The Fed cut its economic growth forecast to between 2.7 percent and 2.9 percent this year, down from its range of 3.1 percent to 3.3

Oil tumbles on plan to release int'l reserves

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil tumbled Thursday after the International Energy Agency, which includes the U.S., said it will release some of its emergency oil supplies to stave off a possible spike in energy prices that could strain the global economic recovery.

The IEA, based in Paris, will make 60 million barrels available over a 30-day period. Half of that will come from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which currently holds 727 million barrels of crude. The SPR was last tapped in 2008 as oil rose to a record \$147 per barrel.

With Libya's oil supplies likely unavailable for at least the remainder of this year because of unrest there, and global demand for oil expected to grow in the summer, the IEA said it was concerned that tighter

supplies threatened to "undermine the fragile global economic recovery."

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$4.39, or 4.6 percent, to settle at \$91.02 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude, used to price many international varieties, lost \$6.95, or 6.1 percent, to settle at \$107.26 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. The IEA's action comes two weeks after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries failed to agree to boost oil production. At the time, IEA said it was disappointed by OPEC's lack of response to rising oil prices.

The move was somewhat unexpected because oil prices have dropped in the past few weeks. WTI is down about 20 percent from its recent high of \$113.93 per barrel at the



In this June 22, 2011 photo, gas station manager Joseph Sublett changes a sign reflecting lower prices in Little Rock, Ark.

Associated Press

end of April. Brent has fallen about 14 percent from a high of \$126.12.

Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research said the release of oil over the next month will probably depress prices temporarily, but he's doubtful it will have a long-term impact. "It creates an immediate glut (of oil)," he said "But they're not solving the problem." □



In this May, 19, 2011 photo, a new home site for sale is posted in McDonald, Pa. Fewer people bought new homes last month, the latest sign that the struggling housing market won't rebound this year.

Associated Press

percent in April. The Fed also raised its unemployment rate estimate slightly, saying it would not fall below 8.6 percent this year. Economists say they are worried by conflicting explanations for the more downbeat view.

In its policy statement, the Fed blamed the worsening outlook in part on temporary factors. High gas prices have forced consumers to spend less on discretionary items, such as appliances and vacations, which help boost growth. And supply disruptions from Japan's natural disasters have slowed manufacturing growth. The Fed said those problems should abate by the fall, and growth would pick up.

But when pressed by reporters, Bernanke acknowledged that some of the troubles are stronger and more

persistent. He singled out the weaknesses in the financial sector and the housing market. And he said those problems could linger for some time.

"The chairman talked about temporary factors, but housing is clearly not temporary. It's a structural problem. This is going to stay with us for a while," said Yelena Shulyatyeva, an analyst at BNP Paribas.

The White House is trying to avoid further unexpected setbacks to the economy. The Obama administration announced Thursday it was releasing 30 million barrels of oil from the country's emergency reserve, the largest ever. It is intended to increase U.S. supplies during the busy summer driving season and will likely send the cost of gas, which has already been falling, down further. □

Bay: New 3-D 'Transformers' better than # 2



English actress Rosie Huntington-Whiteley poses at the opening ceremony of the Moscow international film festival in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, June 23, 2011. The Moscow Film Festival opened with Hollywood blockbuster "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

(AP Photo/Misha Japaridze)

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Michael Bay promises that the third "Transformers" movie is way better than the second.

The 46-year-old's pride was bruised after part two of the franchise, 2009's "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,"

did a bang-up job at the box office (bringing in more than \$400 million domestically) but was roundly beat-up by critics.

Rolling Stone's Peter Travers said the movie was so "beyond bad, it carves out its own category of godawfulness." It also won the Razzie that year for worst director, worst script and worst film. Now, Bay is back with "Transformers:

Dark of the Moon," which opens in IMAX 3-D on Tuesday night and goes wide at midnight Wednesday. When asked to describe the new movie, Bay said, "it's a lot better than No. 2."

"This one is much more of a mystery," he said, sitting at a shady outdoor table on the Paramount lot.

"It's really epic in scope, it's got more heart. It's kind of

back down to basics. Movie two, we kind of went off on a tangent."

That tangent brought Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and his giant robot friends and foes to Egypt, where he and the noble Autobots fought to save humankind — and the Earth and the sun — from the evil Decepticons.

LaBeouf said the second film was "just far too complicated," but volume three is "simple enough to be able to enjoy. ... It's without a doubt our best film."

Besides a more straightforward plot, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" introduces new cast members Frances McDormand, John Malkovich,

Patrick Dempsey, Ken Jeong and Victoria's Secret model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, who replaces Megan Fox as Sam's love interest. (Bay told GQ magazine that executive producer Steven Spielberg demanded he fire Fox after she compared Bay to Hitler.)

"Dark of the Moon" also introduces a whole new dimension as Bay's first 3-D film. □



Lindsay Lohan exits a probation hearing at LAX Courthouse, Thursday, June 23, 2011, in Los Angeles. Prosecutors say Lohan's court appearance related to her drunken driving case, not a misdemeanor theft case the actress resolved with a no-contest plea in May.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

Judge tells Lohan: No more parties!

A. McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The house party is over for Lindsay Lohan, at least while she's on house arrest.

Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner chided Lohan for having rooftop parties at her home while serving house arrest on a probation violation but said the actress hadn't violated any other rules.

"If you are guilty of some violation of your probation, I don't see it," Sautner said. "What you are guilty of is extremely poor judgment." Lohan tearfully hugged her attorney, Shawn Holley, after the hearing.

Earlier, the actress told Sautner she wanted to put her court troubles behind her.

"Do you want to get on with your life, tell me," Sautner asked.

"Yes, I do," Lohan replied.

It was the only time she spoke during the hearing. The judge said Lohan didn't violate her probation by testing positive for alcohol during a recent test. The testing requirement, imposed by another judge, ended in February. □

Bulger was indirect 'informant' for 'Departed'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Whitey Bulger was an FBI informant. His life also informed one of modern Hollywood's more memorable crime stories. Martin Scorsese's "The Departed" was hardly the life story of Bulger, yet the aura and influence of the Boston mob boss permeates the Academy Award-winning gangster saga.

Adapted from the Hong Kong crime tale "Infernal Affairs," 2006's "The Departed" co-stars Jack Nicholson as a Boston gang leader whose life parallels that of Bulger, the Irish mob chief arrested Wednesday after 16 years as a fugitive. Scorsese and his collaborators say Bulger and the crime operation he ran around Boston helped localize the story and add credibility to the plot, which centers on an undercover

cop who infiltrates the mob (Leonardo DiCaprio) and a policeman (Matt Damon) who's really a mole for the mob.

Bulger himself was an FBI informant, supplying information about rival New England crime crews.

In a behind-the-scenes segment about Bulger included in "The Departed" DVD release, Scorsese said that Nicholson's crime boss Frank Costello was not "directly patterned after Whitey Bulger."

"We tried to utilize the information we read about it as a kind of comfort zone to know that a lot of the stuff was factual, because if somebody had written that, I'd say, 'No, come on. It's too much,'" said Scorsese, who won the best-director Oscar for "The Departed." The film's four

Oscars also included best picture.

"The Departed" remains Scorsese's top-grossing film, taking in \$132.4 million do-

mestically and nearly \$300 million worldwide, and is probably how most folks know anything about the Bulger saga. □



In this undated file photo originally released by Warner Bros. Pictures, from left, Leonardo Di Caprio, Ray Winstone, and Jack Nicholson as Boston mafia boss Frank Costello are shown in a scene from "The Departed." Martin Scorsese's "The Departed" was hardly the life story of Whitey Bulger. Yet the aura and influence of the Boston mob boss permeates the Academy Award-winning gangster saga, which co-starred Jack Nicholson as a Boston gang leader whose life parallels that of Bulger.

(AP Photo/Warner Bros. Pictures, Andrew Cooper)

In 'Can't stop,' Conan O'Brien vents to the faithful

STEPHEN HOLDEN

© 2011 New York Times

A thin-skinned, hyperkinetic entertainer under stress: That would describe the brash red-headed star, now 48, of Rodman Flender's tour documentary, "Conan O'Brien Can't Stop." As revealed in the film, this high-strung showoff who often behaves like a fourth grader on the verge of a tantrum is a classic example of talent fueled by anger.

"Sometimes I'm so mad I can't even breathe," O'Brien declares early in the film, which tracks him during his 32-city "Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour," which came after his dramatic exit from NBC in January 2010.

That anger is righteous. By now almost everybody knows the story of how O'Brien's cozy two-decade relationship with that network fractured over his objection to hosting "The Tonight Show" at a later hour. That move was to be made to accommodate Jay Leno, after Leno's own show faltered when he left "Tonight" and moved to an earlier time. Leno eventually took back "Tonight" from his designated successor, who left humiliated and in a rage.

Paid off handsomely (\$45 million for him and his staff, including \$32.5 million for himself), O'Brien was contractually forbidden to host

a television show for six months. You might imagine that such a lavish severance would mollify anyone's hurt feelings after a public breakup. But stars' egos being what they are, the payout was small consolation.

More embarrassing for NBC than for O'Brien, the contretemps made a lot of media noise. At one point in the film O'Brien snidely reads an imaginary

aroo Festival in Manchester, Tenn. Throughout, O'Brien is seen fretting, fuming and occasionally rejoicing while in the throes of what looks like a sustained adrenaline rush. At one point he exults that for the first time in his career people have actually paid to see him. The film also reveals the grueling labor of putting together an act, taking it on the road and enduring such necessary rituals as greeting fans

get from seeing his late-night shows. O'Brien, a Harvard-educated entertainer from an upper-middle-class background in Brookline, Mass., is certainly smart. The way he tosses off witticisms both onstage and back suggests a mind so supercharged it risks eating itself. In one amusing stage bit he notes his own physical resemblance to Jimmy Neutron and Tilda Swinton. But a longer monologue in

roll comedy extravaganza than the film's scattered short excerpts provide. The jumpy editing suggests that the filmmakers were worried that longer segments might reveal the thinness of O'Brien's material, though there is no way of knowing, since so little of it is shown. The film spends too much time with O'Brien and his team backstage, where he is the needy focus of attention at all times. That he can be volatile and peevish is suggested by his half-joking diatribe to an assistant who had been instructed to order a plain grilled-cheese sandwich that arrived drenched in butter.



A handout photo of talk-show host Conan O'Brien in a scene from the upcoming documentary "Conan O'Brien Can't Stop." The film tracks O'Brien on his "Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour" of 32 cities. (Pariah Productions via The New York Times)

"Sometimes I'm so mad I can't even breathe," O'Brien declares early in the film, which tracks him during his 32-city "Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour," which came after his dramatic exit from NBC in January 2010.

telegram from Leno asking, "What's it like to have a soul?" "Conan O'Brien Can't Stop" tracks him from Eugene, Ore., to Atlanta, with stops in Las Vegas, New York, and at the Bonn-

with whom you don't want to spend time. If "Conan O'Brien Can't Stop" is consistently watchable, it isn't especially funny, nor does it give any deeper insight into its star than you might

which he identifies "the four stages of anger" doesn't quite pay off. As a tour documentary "Conan O'Brien Can't Stop" leaves much to be desired. You long to see more of this rock 'n'

The appearances of musical guests like Eddie Vedder and Jack White are so brief that they barely have time to register.

O'Brien is by no means a great rock 'n' roller, but he has nervous energy to spare, and several manic rockabilly numbers find him dancing around like a wild man. □

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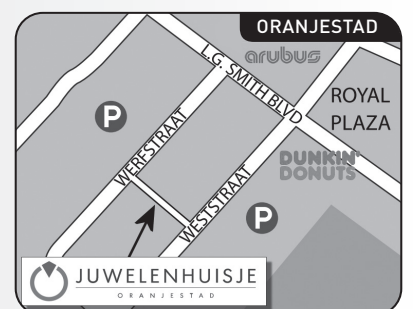
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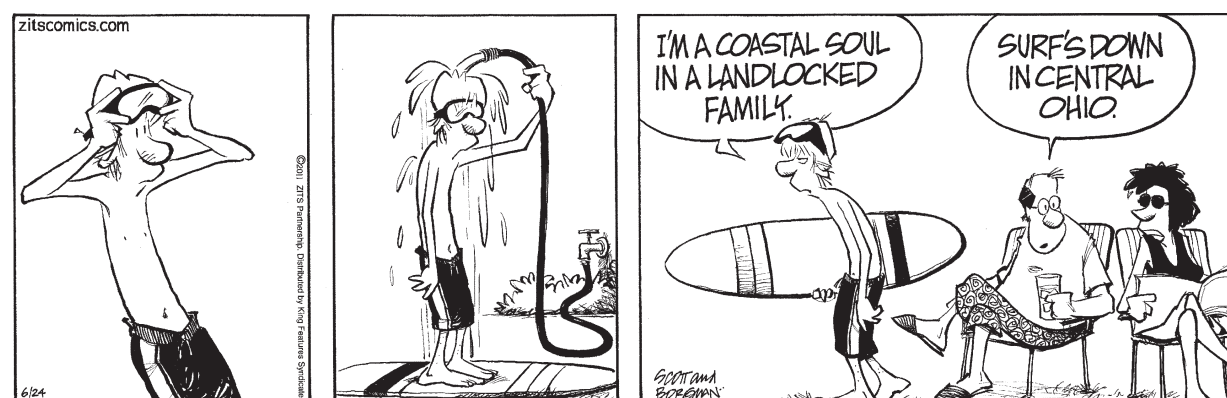
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	8						6
			3	4				
1				2				
4	9				2			
		2				5		
			5				3	8
				7				9
				5	1			
6						7	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/24

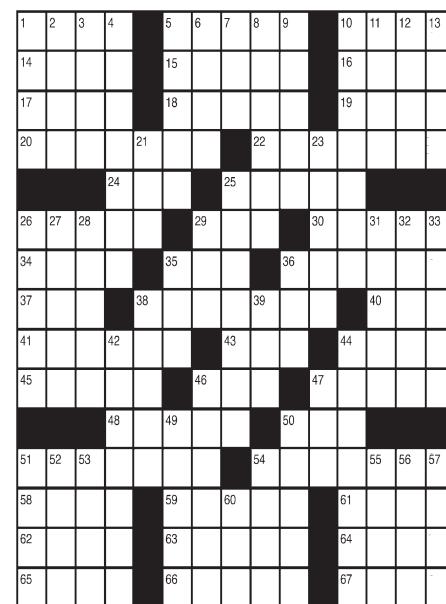
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	6	9	4	7	5	8	3	1
5	4	1	3	6	8	2	9	7
3	7	8	9	1	2	6	5	4
4	2	7	6	9	1	3	8	5
8	3	5	2	4	7	1	6	9
1	9	6	5	8	3	4	7	2
7	1	2	8	3	9	5	4	6
9	8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3
6	5	3	7	2	4	9	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 Actress Tuesday
- 5 ___ place prize; bronze medal
- 10 Moving trucks
- 14 Above
- 15 One who gets just his feet wet
- 16 ___ vera; lotion ingredient
- 17 Chianti or port
- 18 Eat away at
- 19 Actress Turner
- 20 Walked through water
- 22 Cupboard
- 24 ___ up; arrange
- 25 Makes gentle
- 26 See eye to eye
- 29 Energy
- 30 Apprehensions
- 34 On ___ own; independent
- 35 Turn a deaf ___ to; ignore
- 36 Blunder
- 37 Aries the ___
- 38 Plead with
- 40 Go quickly
- 41 Stab of pain
- 43 Hotel
- 44 Repair
- 45 Up and about
- 46 "Roses are ___, violets are..."
- 47 Domineering
- 48 Adamant denial
- 50 Total
- 51 Add sugar to
- 54 Adorns
- 58 Ukraine's capital
- 59 Royal
- 61 Hammered fastener
- 62 Doing nothing
- 63 ___ in; occupy
- 64 Flooring piece
- 65 Fit snugly together
- 66 Small isolated bits of land
- 67 Winter flakes



6/24/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	N	G	S	H	A	C	K	M	E	T	E
O	B	E	Y	H	A	N	O	I	A	C	I	D
S	L	U	M	A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	E
Y	E	T	A	R	T	S	T	O	R	Y		
			R	O	W	D	Y	T	A	E		
S	T	A	I	R	S		B	E	A	R	E	R
H	I	L	L	Y	L	I	L	A	C	Y	E	W
I	R	I	S		D	I	C	E	R		L	E
N	E	T	J	A	D	E	D		M	O	G	U
			D	Y	N	A	M	O		C	O	I
			E	W	E		D	O	N	N	A	
I	S	S	U	E		T	E	A	K		S	P
B	O	A	R	D	R	O	O	M	S		U	S
I	A	G	O		I	N	G	O	T		S	E
S	P	A	N		M	E	A	N	S		A	S

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6/24/11

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 TV host Jay | 42 City preached to by Jonah | 51 Like nonfat milk |
| 4 Puts clothes on | 44 Seconds | 52 Extensive |
| 5 Bird's cry | 46 Extends one's subscription | 53 Morays, e.g. |
| 6 Difficult | 47 Flower-to-be | 54 Bundle of hay |
| 7 Wedding words | 49 "Rigoletto" composer | 55 Abel's brother |
| 8 Baggage porter | 50 Peddles | 56 Weight unit, for short |
| 9 Reverie | | 57 Murdered |
| 10 Suitcases | | 60 Become firm |
| 11 Mr. Greenspan | | |
| 12 Zero | | |
| 13 Derriere | | |
| 21 TV's "___ Haw" | | |
| 23 Suit well | | |
| 25 Yorkshire ___; small long-haired dog | | |
| 26 Major artery | | |
| 27 Nibbles away | | |
| 28 Send in, as one's payment | | |
| 29 Boone or Sajak | | |
| 31 Cramps | | |
| 32 Spoils | | |
| 33 Run-down | | |
| 35 WSW plus 180° | | |
| 36 Gent | | |
| 38 Long-legged bird | | |
| 39 Conclusion | | |

Today In History

Today is Friday, June 24, the 175th day of 2011. There are 190 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

656 - Ali bin Abi-Talib is elected as Islam's fourth caliph following the murder of Caliph Uthman.

1497 - Italian explorer Giovanni Caboto, also known as John Cabot, on a mission for the English crown, discovers Canada but thinks it is Asia. The discovery forms the basis for English claims to Canada. 1535 - Holy Roman Emperor Charles V takes Tunis, lair of the pirate Barbarossa, in an attempt to conquer North Africa.

1595 - The English declare Hugh O'Neill, the earl of Tyrone, a traitor for his rebellion in Ireland.

1793 - First republican constitution in France is adopted, providing for universal male suffrage and the right to free public education. The constitution is soon suspended when the Reign of Terror starts.

1812 - Napoleon Bonaparte's forces cross Niemen River and enter Russian territory.

1839 - Ibrahim, son of Muhammad Ali of Egypt, routs Turkish forces at Nizip. The Ottoman Empire is saved by European intervention.

1894 - France's President Sadi Carnot is assassinated by an Italian anarchist at Lyon.

1917 - Russia's Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sevastopol in the Crimea.

1920 - Greeks launch offensive in Asia Minor against Turkish nationalists.

1922 - Germany's Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau, a Jew, is slain by right-wingers.

1932 - A bloodless coup ends absolute monarchy in Thailand, initiating the so-called Constitutional Era.

1944 - A pro-Nazi Danish police group sets part of the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen on fire in revenge for Danish sabotage actions.

b- Airplane pilot Kenneth Arnold sees a squadron of unidentified flying objects near Mount Rainier,

in Washington state, and coins the phrase "flying saucers."

1948 - Soviet Union begins Berlin blockade, halting road and rail traffic between Berlin and West Germany, leading to start of Berlin airlift.

1978 - Yemen's President Ahmed Hussein Ghashami is killed in Yemen by bomb planted in an envoy's briefcase.

1989 - China's Communist Party replaces Zhao Ziyang as party chief, accusing him of serious errors by supporting democratic demands.

1992 - Israel's Labor party celebrates its election upset of hard-line Likud as Yitzhak Rabin promises to let Palestinians govern themselves.

1995 - Riot police shoot and beat stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating for the release of 5,000 prisoners in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

1997 - Australian Prime Minister John Howard's government scraps plan for a constitutional convention to decide whether Australia should become a republic separate from Britain.

1998 - The U.N. Security Council agrees to maintain sanctions against Iraq after the chief weapons inspector says Iraq had placed nerve gas in missile warheads.

1999 - Some 30 gunmen, demanding jobs, seize control of a Haitian orphanage they graduated from and hold it for about 12 hours before surrendering.

2001 - Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic lashes out at a decree ordering his extradition to the Hague for trial on war crimes, calling it "legal savagery."

2002 - U.S. President George W. Bush says Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat must be replaced before the United States can back the creation of an indepen-

dent Palestinian state.

2003 - The World Health Organization (WHO) removes Beijing, China's capital, from its list of areas where severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was spreading, and lifts advice that travelers postpone all but essential travel there.

2004 - Iraqi insurgents assault police stations and government buildings across Iraq in rapid-fire synchronized attacks to demonstrate their power ahead of the formal end of the U.S. occupation.

2005 - Record-high floods rush through the industrial heart of southern China, putting factories and railway lines in the path of torrents that had already killed at least 536 people nationwide.

2006 - Thousands of protesters demand the ouster of East Timor's prime minister, blaming him for provoking violence and political chaos.

2007 - Iraqi court sentences Saddam Hussein's cousin, known as "Chemical Ali," and two other former regime officials to death by hanging for slaughtering up to 180,000 Kurds in the 1980s.

2008 - Palestinian militants fire three homemade rockets into southern Israel, the first such attack since a cease-fire between Israel and Gaza militants took effect the previous week.

2009 - Security forces using tear gas and clubs quickly overwhelm a small group of rock-throwing protesters near Iran's parliament, and the country's supreme leader said the outcome of the disputed presidential election will stand — the latest signs of the government's growing confidence in quelling unrest on the streets.

Today's Birthdays:

Nuno Alvares Pereira, Portuguese leader (1360-1431); St. John of the Cross, Span-



Today is Jack Dempsey's birthday

ish mystic (1542-1591); Ambrose Bierce, U.S. writer (1842-1914); Lord Horatio Kitchener, English soldier (1850-1916); Victor Frances Hess, Austrian physicist (1883-1964); Jack Dempsey, U.S. world heavyweight boxing champion (1895-1983); Al Molinaro, U.S. actor (1919--). □

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Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad
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Police 582-4000

San Nicolas
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BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
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RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
AP Science Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have figured out a way to take the temperature of dinosaurs, and it turns out to be almost the same as ours. Of course you can't just stick a thermometer under the tongue of a gigantic creature that's been extinct for millions of years. So they did the next best thing. They studied dinosaur

teeth, which can reflect body temperature. They found the long-necked *Brachiosaurus* had a temperature of about 100.8 degrees Fahrenheit (38.2 Celsius) and the smaller *Camarasaurus* had a temperature of about 98.3 degrees F (36.8 C). People average 98.6 F (37 C). Their study, reported online Thursday in the journal *Science*, won't settle the long-running debate

over whether dinosaurs were warm-blooded like modern mammals or cold-blooded, requiring outside sources of warmth to get them going like lizards. When they were first discovered, the theory was that they were lumbering and cold-blooded, but in recent years the consensus has been moving more toward warm-blooded, which would allow them to be more active, like the velociraptors in the Jurassic Park movies. "Our analysis really allows us rule out that they could have been cold, like crocodiles, for example," lead researcher Robert A. Eagle of the California Institute of Technology said in a briefing. But, he added, "this doesn't necessarily mean these large dinosaurs had high metabolism like mammals and birds ... they could have been 'gigantotherms' and stay warm be-



This undated artist rendering provided by the journal Science shows a Jurassic sauropod. Scientists have figured out a way to take the temperature of dinosaurs, and it turns out to be almost the same as ours.

Associated Press

cause they were so large." A giant body mass is very good at keeping the temperature constant, explained co-author Thomas Tuetken of the University of Bonn, Germany. Their research was on sauropods, the largest of dinosaurs, and the researchers explained that animals that large can retain body

heat even with a relatively low metabolism, simply because they are so big. Brachiosaurus weighed in at 40 tons and Camarasaurus was a 15-ton creature. Both lived about 150 million years ago. The finding "confirms that dinosaurs were not sluggish, cold-blooded animals," commented Roger Seymour of the University of Adelaide, Australia, who was not part of the research team. But, he added, "the debate about dinosaur metabolic rate will go on, no doubt, because it can never be measured directly and paleoscientists will often seek evidence to support a particular view and ignore contrary evidence." Geoffrey F. Birchard of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, agreed that the debate is likely to continue. The new paper helps confirm what the temperatures of these dinosaurs were, but knowing what the temperature was in something so big doesn't necessarily confirm that it was warm-blooded, said Birchard, who was not part of the research team. □

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'The names of love'

You're a fascist? Let's hop in bed!

STEPHEN HOLDEN

© 2011 New York Times

How many years has it been since you encountered someone waving a placard or wearing a T-shirt with the slogan, "Make love, not war"? Resurrected in the French satirical farce "The Names of Love," that hippie free-loving attitude is personified by Baya Benmahmoud (Sara Forestier), a charming, insouciant whack job in her 20s who boasts that she always sleeps with a man on their first date.

The daughter of an Algerian immigrant and a one-time French radical, Baya carries that philosophy to comic extremes that would have been unimaginable even in 1968. She is also a walking wardrobe malfunction, who is so absent-minded that her breasts are repeatedly falling out of her shirt. In one of the movie's funniest scenes she dashes into the Paris Metro naked but for a pair of boots and startles an Islamic fundamentalist couple across the car.

Baya blithely wields her body as a weapon of political persuasion. On meeting a man who is even a shade to the right of her avidly left-wing politics – or in her words, a "fascist," a term she drops as casually as others say "dude" and "babe" – she drags him into bed for a quickie conversion. Just as he is about to lose control, she whispers things like, "Not all Algerians are thieves." The screenplay by Michel Leclerc, who also directed, and Baya Kasmi doesn't pretend that her sex magic always has the desired effect.

Forestier, whose performance won her a Cesar (the French Oscar) for best actress, is the spark plug igniting a movie that has the tone and structure of early-to-middle Woody Allen, but infused with a dose of Gallic identity politics. At any point the characters are quite likely to be joined suddenly by their younger selves or their dead parents.

The free-for-all structure allows for wildly funny set pieces. One is an illustrated history of a character's tendency to embrace the wrong technology, be it a Betamax or a miracle cheese grater. Another is a dinner party hosted by Baya, who innocently drops words like "bake" and "oven" that evoke the Ho-

president, will also be lost on Americans.

The film's original French title, "Le Nom des Gens" ("The Name of People"), is also much more to the point than its fluffy English title. For this is a movie that pokes serious fun at ethnic and religious stereotyping based on names and appearances. Arthur's moth-

er, a wing rebel. When both sets of parents meet, discomfort reigns. Although the light-complexioned Baya could pass as a non-Arab, she flaunts her Algerian heritage. Arthur, a nonpracticing Jew, never mentions his half-Jewish background, but when Baya learns of it, she is thrilled.

"That's so cool! The two of

formance.

PRODUCTION NOTES: 'THE NAMES OF LOVE'

Directed by Michel Leclerc; written by Baya Kasmi and Leclerc; director of photography, Vincent Mathias; edited by Nathalie Hubert; music by Jerome Bensoussan and David Euverte; produced by Caroline Adrian, Antoine Rein and



An undated handout photo of Sara Forestier in "The Names of Love." The French film directed by Michel Leclerc, pokes fun at ethnic and religious stereotyping based on names and appearances.

(Music Box Films via The New York Times)

locoust, a taboo subject for one guest. "The Names of Love" is also an odd-couple rom-com in which Baya hooks up with Arthur Martin (Jacques Gamblin), an expert on avian diseases and a quintessential square. One of the movie's many jokes that only French audiences will get is that Arthur Martin is a French washing machine brand, a fact that everyone to whom he is introduced feels obliged to note. Many obscure political references and a cameo by Lionel Jospin, the French prime minister from 1997 to 2002 and two-time Socialist candidate for

er, Annette (Michele Moretti), escaped the Holocaust when she was sheltered in an orphanage under a changed name; her mother's death in Auschwitz left her burdened with crippling depression and guilt. Arthur's French Roman Catholic father, Lucien (Jacques Boudet), who runs a nuclear power plant, served with the French Army in Algeria. Baya's gentle, self-effacing father, Mohamed (Zinedine Soualem), is an Algerian Arab whose father was killed by French soldiers during the Algerian war. Her French mother, Cecile (Carole Franck), was a left-

us embody France," she crows. "We're the future of humanity!" With its implication that the world's problems might begin to be solved by one Arab-Jewish coupling, "The Names of Love" succumbs to glib sentimentality. For all the potentially dangerous subjects it glosses, above all the tangled legacies of the Holocaust and the Algerian war, "The Names of Love" dances away from any uncomfortable provocation. Even when sticking out its tongue, it is finally just an airy comedy riding on one cheeky, incandescent per-

Fabrice Goldstein-Delante Films/Kare Productions; released by Music Box Films. In French, with English subtitles. Running time: 1 hour, 42 minutes.

With: Sara Forestier (Baya Benmahmoud), Jacques Gamblin (Arthur Martin), Carole Franck (Cecile Benmahmoud), Zinedine Soualem (Mohamed Benmahmoud), Michele Moretti (Annette Martin) and Jacques Boudet (Lucien Martin).

"The Names of Love" is rated R. (Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.) It has nudity and strong language. □



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